

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
AUGUST 23, 2023
GENESIS 42:9FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. **GENESIS 42.8:** *“And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.”*
 - a) It has been twenty-two years since his brothers last saw Joseph. (Gen. 37.2; 41.46; 45.6)
 - b) Seeing his brother, Joseph *“spoke roughly to them”* Why? (Gen. 42.7)
2. **GENESIS 42.9:** *“Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them.”*
 - a) His brothers bowed before him sparking the memory. (Gen. 42.6; 37.7,8)
 - b) He had just interpreted three men’s dreams which came true.
3. At the heart of our text is the concept of honesty and the consequences of deceitfulness.

I. THE VIRTUE OF HONESTY

- A. Joseph called the integrity of his brothers into question.
 1. **GENESIS 42.9:** *“You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land.”*
 - a) Nakedness (erwa): Refers to the idea of being exposed. Used both in reference to shamefulness and unprotected. (Isa. 47.1-3)
 - b) They were accused of spying out the unprotected and unguarded parts of Egypt.
 2. **GENESIS 42.10,11:** *“No, my lord... We are honest men”*
 - a) The entire text is centered on their honesty. (Gen. 42.19, 31-34)
 - b) Were the sons of Jacob truly honest? (Gen. 37.31-35)
 - c) **GENESIS 42.12,13:** *“one is no more”* (cf. Gen. 44.20).
- B. Christians are to be people of honesty.
 1. The way we speak comes from the person of the heart. (Matt. 6.45)
 2. **COLOSSIANS 3.9:** *“Do not lie to one another”* (cf. Eph. 4.25)
 3. There are two reasons why people lie.
 - a) They lie for promotion. It is for personal gain. (Acts 5.1-3)
 - b) They lie for protection. Protect feelings, protect from punishment, etc. (Ps. 15.1-5)

II. THE VENOM OF DECEPTION

- A. Joseph tested the integrity of his brothers.
 1. **GENESIS 42.14,15:** *“In this manner, you shall be tested”*
 - a) THE TEST: *“Send one of you, and let him bring back his brother”* (Gen. 42.16)
 - b) Telling Joseph that *“one is no more”* suggested they had no remorse. (Gen. 42.13)
 - c) **GENESIS 42.17:** *“So he put them all in prison three days”* For reflection?
 2. **GENESIS 42.18-20:** Joseph modified the terms of the agreement.
- B. Joseph’s brothers were consumed with guilt.
 1. **GENESIS 42.21:** *“We are truly guilty concerning our brother...therefore this distress has come upon us.”* There were consequences to their sin.
 2. **GENESIS 42.22:** *“His blood is now required of us.”* They were held accountable.
 3. **GENESIS 42.23,24:** Joseph *“turned himself away from them and wept.”* Their sin broke the hearts of their loved ones.
- C. Sinning by deception comes with a heavy price.
 1. There are consequences to lying. (Num. 32.32)
 2. There will be an accounting for lying. (Rev. 21.8)
 3. Lying will hurt those we love. (Phil. 3.17-19)