

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023
GENESIS 43:29-35

INTRODUCTION:

1. Joseph had a special relationship with his father, Jacob.
 - a) As the firstborn son of the woman that he loved, Joseph was his favorite. (Gen. 30.22-24)
 - b) Joseph was protected more than the rest of his family. (Gen. 33.1,2)
 - c) Jacob's favoritism caused Joseph to be hated by his brothers. (Gen. 37,3,4)
2. Joseph had a special relationship with God.
 - a) Through his dreams, God revealed his place of authority over his family. (Gen. 37.8-11)
 - b) God was with Joseph while he served in Potiphar's house. (Gen. 39.2,3)
 - c) God was with Joseph while he was imprisoned. (Gen. 39.21-23)
3. Joseph cared about his brothers. It was his relationship and experience with God that influenced how he felt about his brothers.

I. SPIRITUAL

- A. Joseph cared for their spiritual welfare.
 1. **GENESIS 43.29:** *"And he said, 'God be gracious to you, my son.'"*
 - a) Benjamin received more affection than the rest of his brothers because he was *"his mother's son."* (Gen. 42.20; 44.27,28)
 - b) Gracious (hanan): Equivalent to the Greek word charis referring to God's kindness, mercy, and love. Joseph wanted God's favor for his brother.
 2. Jesus cares for the spiritual welfare of His brethren. (Gal. 2.20; Eph. 5.2; 1 John 3.16)
- B. We are to care for the welfare of our family. (Gal. 6.1; James 5.19,20; Heb. 10.24,25)

II. EMOTIONAL

- A. Joseph felt emotional toward his brothers.
 1. **GENESIS 43.30:** *"Now his heart yearned for his brothers."*
 - a) Overwhelmed with emotions, he *"sought somewhere to weep"* (Gen. 43.30).
 - b) **GENESIS 43.31:** Joseph *"washed his face...and he restrained himself."*
 2. Jesus feels emotional for His brethren. (John 11.33-35; Mark 10.21; Luke 19.41,42)
- B. We are to feel deeply for one another. (John 13.34-35; Pet. 1.22; Rom. 12.9,10)

III. SOCIAL

- A. Joseph wanted to socialize with his brothers.
 1. **GENESIS 43.32:** *"So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves"*
 - a) The Egyptians considered eating with the Hebrews *"an abomination"* (Gen. 46.34).
 - b) The brother were seated together *"according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth"* (Gen. 43.33). Tables had seatings by rank.
 2. Jesus spent time socializing with the lost. (Matt. 9.10-13; Luke 7.36-39; 15.1,2)
- B. We are to spend time together. (Acts 2.46; Heb. 3.13)

IV. PROVISIONAL

- A. Joseph provided for his brothers.
 1. **GENESIS 43.35:** *"Then he took servings to them from before him"*
 2. Jesus provides for His brethren. (John 4.13,14; 6.53-55,63)
- B. We are to provide for our brethren. (1 John 3.17; 1 Thess. 5.14)