

February 2, 2020

Turning Point
Genesis 42-43
Pastor Kirk Gambrell

Vol. 10 Num. 5

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



As we continue through the Joseph story we see the interaction between Joseph and his brothers in chapters 42-43. The famine comes on the land just as Joseph's dream had revealed. Joseph's brothers then come to Egypt to buy food. Joseph recognizes them but does not seem set on revenge. Joseph tests his brothers to see if they have changed in the way they deal with each other. When Joseph sees that his brothers recognize their guilt in selling him into slavery he is deeply moved. The family is called to be a blessing to all the nations of the world but that cannot happen if they are not able to deal with their past sin. As a child of God we are also called to be a blessing to others. Join us this week as we seek to ensure our ability to be a blessing to those around us.

IF WE CLAIM, "WE DON'T HAVE ANY SIN," WE DECEIVE OURSELVES AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US. BUT IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND CLEANSE US FROM EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE WRONG.

1 John 1:8-9

Joseph's Brothers Sent to Egypt

42 Now Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said to his sons, "Why are you staring at one another?" ² He said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down there and buy *some* for us from that place, so that we may live and not die." ³ Then ten brothers of Joseph went down to buy grain from Egypt. ⁴ But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "I am afraid that harm may befall him." ⁵ So the sons of Israel came to buy grain among those who were coming, for the famine was in the land of Canaan *also*.

⁶ Now Joseph was the ruler over the land; he was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him with *their* faces to the ground. ⁷ When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly. And he said to them, "Where have you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

⁸ But Joseph had recognized his brothers, although they did not recognize him. ⁹ Joseph remembered the dreams which he had about them, and said to them, "You are spies; you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land." ¹⁰ Then they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food." ¹¹ We are all sons of one man; we are honest men, your servants are not spies." ¹² Yet he said to them, "No, but you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land!" ¹³ But they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers *in all*, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and behold, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no longer alive." ¹⁴ Joseph said to

them, "It is as I said to you, you are spies; ¹⁵ by this you will be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here! ¹⁶ Send one of you that he may get your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. But if not, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." ¹⁷ So he put them all together in prison for three days.

¹⁸ Now Joseph said to them on the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God: ¹⁹ if you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined in your prison; but as for *the rest of* you, go, carry grain for the famine of your households, ²⁰ and bring your youngest brother to me, so your words may be verified, and you will not die." And they did so. ²¹ Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us." ²² Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not tell you, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood." ²³ They did not know, however, that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them. ²⁴ He turned away from them and wept. But when he returned to them and spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. ²⁵ Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain and to restore every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. And thus it was done for them.

²⁶ So they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed from there. ²⁷ As one *of them* opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money; and behold, it was in the mouth of his sack. ²⁸ Then he said to his brothers, "My money has been returned, and behold, it is even

in my sack.” And their hearts sank, and they *turned* trembling to one another, saying, “What is this that God has done to us?”

Simeon Is Held Hostage

²⁹ When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, ³⁰ “The man, the lord of the land, spoke harshly with us, and took us for spies of the country. ³¹ But we said to him, ‘We are honest men; we are not spies. ³² We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no longer alive, and the youngest is with our father today in the land of Canaan.’ ³³ The man, the lord of the land, said to us, ‘By this I will know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me and take *grain* for the famine of your households, and go. ³⁴ But bring your youngest brother to me that I may know that you are not spies, but honest men. I will give your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.’”

³⁵ Now it came about as they were emptying their sacks, that behold, every man’s bundle of money *was* in his sack; and when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were dismayed. ³⁶ Their father Jacob said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and you would take Benjamin; all these things are against me.” ³⁷ Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, “You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring him *back* to you; put him in my care, and I will return him to you.” ³⁸ But Jacob said, “My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should befall him on the journey you are taking, then you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow.”

The Return to Egypt

43 Now the famine was severe in the land. ² So it came about when they had finished eating the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, “Go back, buy us a little food.” ³ Judah spoke to him, however, saying, “The man solemnly warned us, ‘You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.’ ⁴ If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. ⁵ But if you do not send *him*, we will not go down; for the man said to us, ‘You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.’” ⁶ Then Israel said, “Why did you treat me so badly by telling the man whether you still had *another* brother?” ⁷ But they said, “The man questioned particularly about us and our relatives, saying, ‘Is your father still alive? Have you *another* brother?’ So we answered his questions. Could we possibly know that he would say, ‘Bring your brother down?’” ⁸ Judah said to his father Israel, “Send the lad with me and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones. ⁹ I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him *back* to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame before you forever. ¹⁰ For if we had not delayed, surely by now we could have returned twice.”

¹¹ Then their father Israel said to them, “If *it must be* so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man as a present, a little balm and a little honey, aromatic gum and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. ¹² Take double *the* money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was a mistake. ¹³ Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man; ¹⁴ and may God Almighty grant you

compassion in the sight of the man, so that he will release to you your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.”¹⁵ So the men took this present, and they took double *the* money in their hand, and Benjamin; then they arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

Joseph Sees Benjamin

¹⁶ When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to his house steward, “Bring the men into the house, and slay an animal and make ready; for the men are to dine with me at noon.”¹⁷ So the man did as Joseph said, and brought the men to Joseph’s house.¹⁸ Now the men were afraid, because they were brought to Joseph’s house; and they said, “*It is* because of the money that was returned in our sacks the first time that we are being brought in, that he may seek occasion against us and fall upon us, and take us for slaves with our donkeys.”¹⁹ So they came near to Joseph’s house steward, and spoke to him at the entrance of the house,²⁰ and said, “Oh, my lord, we indeed came down the first time to buy food,²¹ and it came about when we came to the lodging place, that we opened our sacks, and behold, each man’s money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full. So we have brought it back in our hand.²² We have also brought down other money in our hand to buy food; we do not know who put our money in our sacks.”²³ He said, “Be at ease, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.²⁴ Then the man brought the men into Joseph’s house and gave them water, and

they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys fodder.²⁵ So they prepared the present for Joseph’s coming at noon; for they had heard that they were to eat a meal there.

²⁶ When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present which was in their hand and bowed to the ground before him.²⁷ Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, “Is your old father well, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?”²⁸ They said, “Your servant our father is well; he is still alive.” They bowed down in homage.²⁹ As he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, he said, “Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?” And he said, “May God be gracious to you, my son.”³⁰ Joseph hurried *out* for he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he sought *a place* to weep; and he entered his chamber and wept there.³¹ Then he washed his face and came out; and he controlled himself and said, “Serve the meal.”³² So they served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat bread with the Hebrews, for that is loathsome to the Egyptians.³³ Now they were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, and the men looked at one another in astonishment.³⁴ He took portions to them from his own table, but Benjamin’s portion was five times as much as any of theirs. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. Why was Joseph so concerned about Benjamin?

9. Why was Jacob reluctant to send Benjamin?

10. What do we learn about the brother's feelings toward Joseph in 42:21-22?

11. What is the difference between Reuben's request to take Benjamin to Egypt and Judah's request to take him?

12. What do we learn from the statement that Egyptians would not eat with Hebrews? What impact might this have for Israel?

13. Why do you think Benjamin's portion was bigger? Is Joseph testing them in a specific way?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

14. What evidence do we have in these chapters that Joseph is willing to forgive his brothers? Try and put yourself in his place, would you be able to forgive them?

15. Joseph's brothers recognize their guilt in regards to Joseph. They cannot be the blessing they are called to be unless they recognize their guilt. This is true for us also. How can we make sure we recognize our own guilt so that we can be a blessing?

16. Why is it important for us to recognize past sin in order to be a blessing to others?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

Sermon Notes