

The Life of Joseph
Lesson 7: Awaking a Seared Conscience

Ps 32:1-4

- 1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*
- 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*
- 3 When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.*
- 4 For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer.*
Selah.

I. Introduction

II. The famine begins

A. The famine brings brothers to Egypt

1. *Gen 41:54-57*

54 And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.

56 And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

57 And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

2. *Gen 42:1-2*

1 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?

2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.

3. *Gen 42:3-5*

3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.

4 But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.

5 And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

B. Bowing before a "stranger"

1. *Gen 42:6 And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.*

2. *Gen 42:8 And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.*

C. Remembering the dreams

1. *Gen 37:4-10*

4 And when his [Joseph's] brethren saw that their father [Jacob] loved him more than all his

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brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

*7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, **your sheaves** stood round about, and **made obeisance** [bowed to the ground] to my sheaf.*

8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

*9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars **made obeisance** [bowed to the ground] to me.*

*10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to **bow down** [bowed to the ground] ourselves to thee to the earth?*

2. *Gen 42:7 And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange [disguised himself] unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.*

3. *Gen 42:23 And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.*

D. Character test

1. *Gen 42:8-9*

8 And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.

*9 And **Joseph remembered the dreams** which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.*

2. *Gen 42:13 And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.*

3. *Gen 42:14-16*

14 And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies:

15 Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither.

16 Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies.

4. *Gen 42:18-20*

18 And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:

19 If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses:

20 But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.

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E. An emotional confession

1. Gen 42:21-23

21 And they said one to another, **We are verily guilty concerning our brother**, in that **we** saw the **anguish of his soul**, when he besought us, and **we would not hear**; therefore is this distress come upon **us**.

22 And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, **Do not sin against the child**; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also **his blood is required**.

23 And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.

2. Gen 42:24 **And he turned himself about from them, and wept**; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.

III. Conclusion: What is God doing?

1. Gen 42:25 Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them.

2. Gen 42:27-28

27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth.

28 And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed them, and they were afraid [they trembled], saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us?