

“FORGIVEN & ACCEPTED”

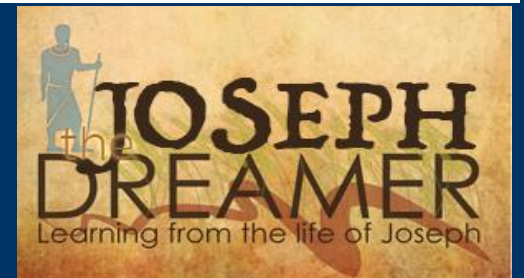
(Genesis 43:15-34)

Life of Joseph - Sermon 8

Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam

Date: March 5, 2017

Place: Hope Community Baptist Church



INTRODUCTION



This couple had been torn apart only seven months after their wedding



South Korean Lee Soon-kyu, 85, met her North Korean husband Oh Se In, 83, for the first time in 65



When they were separated the young woman was pregnant - and in more than 60 years, Oh In-Se had never met his son



Jung Kun-mok - who South Korea says was abducted by the North - met his mother Lee Bok-sun



South Korean Lee Jung-sook wipes tears from her North Korean father's face during the farewell session



North Korean Rim Ok-Rye, right, had not seen her South Korean sister Lim Ok-Nam for 60 years



Jung Kun-mok - who South Korea says was abducted by the North - met his mother Lee Bok-sun



Gu Sang-yeon, 98, travelled from South Korea to meet his daughters for the first time in over 60 years



North Korean Han Eum-jeon met her husband Jeon Gyu-myeong - both are in their 80s



It was an emotional reunion for brother and sister Han Chal-gill and Han Won-ja



South Korean mother Kom Wol-soon, 93, wept as she was reunited with her 72-year-old North Korean son Ju Jae-un

INTRODUCTION



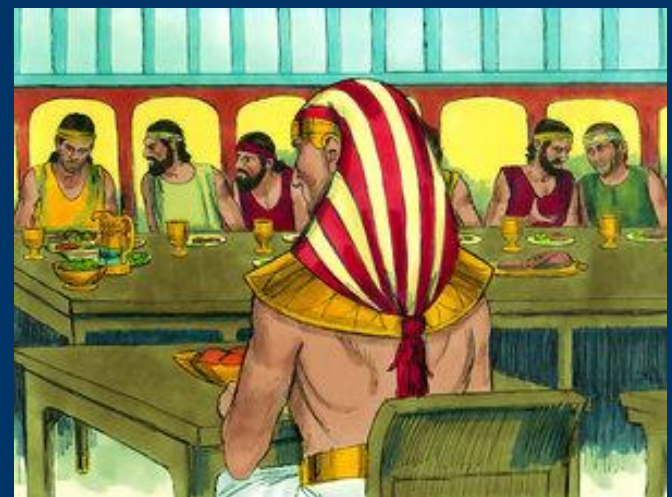
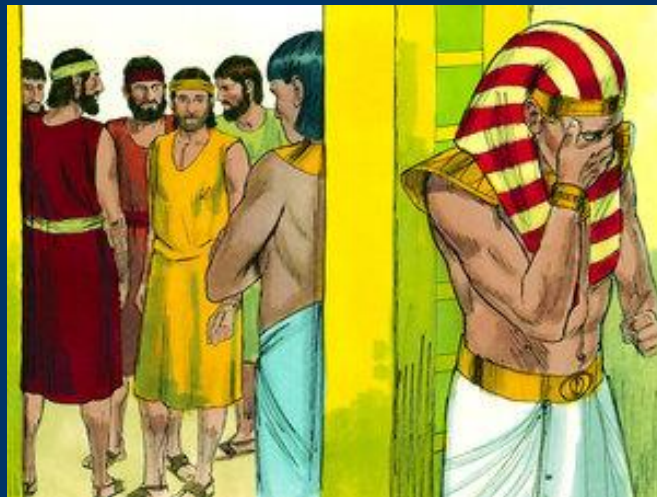
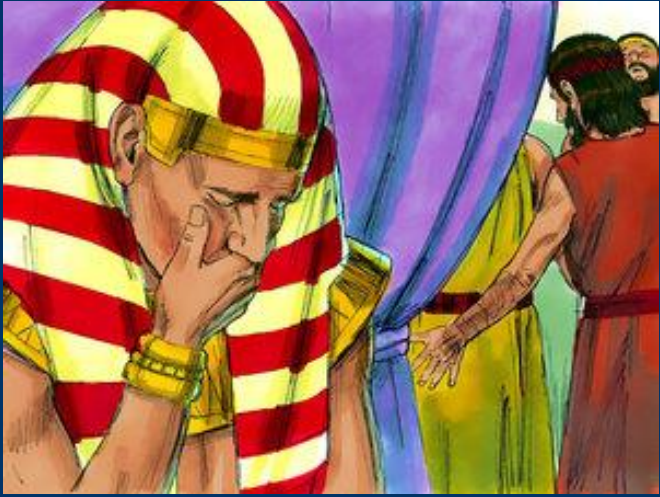
Few scenes in life are more emotional than a family reunited after long years of separation.

"It's hard for people to understand what it's like when you've been separated so long," he told the BBC before he left for the North. "But it's a true miracle; I'm so elated. All that was missing in my life was my brother, and now that I can see him again, I'd have no regrets whatsoever if I were to die tomorrow."

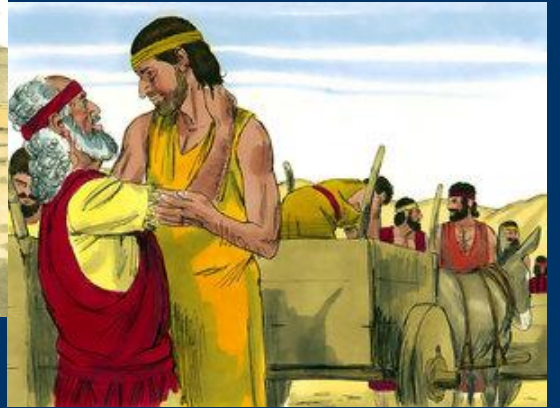
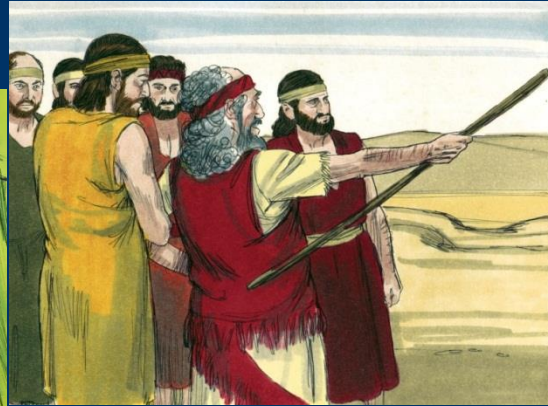
(South Korean Lee Du-young, who is in his late 70s.)

INTRODUCTION

The reunion of Joseph and his brothers, including his full brother, Benjamin.



I. THE JOURNEY FROM CANAAN TO EGYPT



Back to Egypt with a... **Guilty Conscience,**
and a feeling of...
Apprehension & Uncertainty.

II. FEARFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH'S BUTLER

A. *The Banquet Plans.*

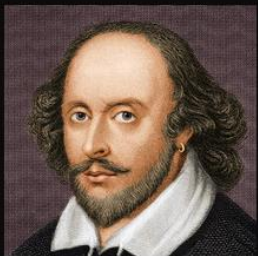
Gen43:16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, **"Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare a meal; they are to eat with me at noon."**



II. FEARFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH'S BUTLER

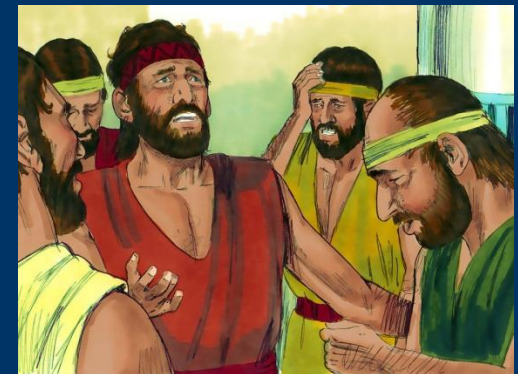
B. The Uneasy Explanation

Gen43:18 *Now the men were frightened when they were taken to his house. They thought, "We were brought here because of the silver that was put back into our sacks the first time. He wants to attack us and overpower us and seize us as slaves and take our donkeys."*



Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind.

~ William Shakespeare

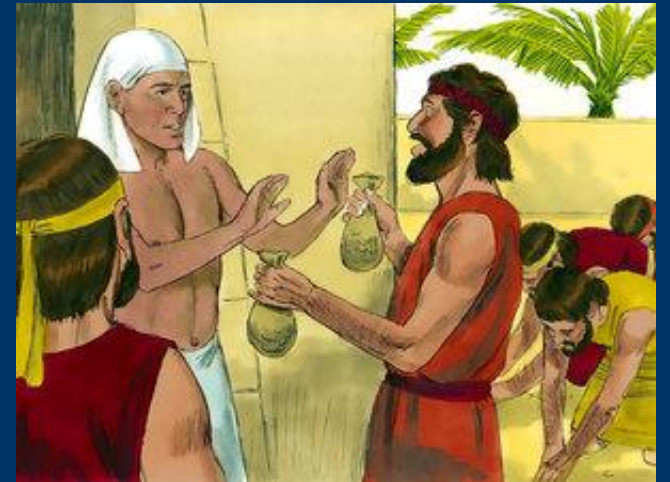


II. FEARFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH'S BUTLER

B. The Uneasy Explanation

Gen 43:19 *So they went up to Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house.*

20 *"We beg your pardon, our lord," they said, "we came down here the first time to buy food.*

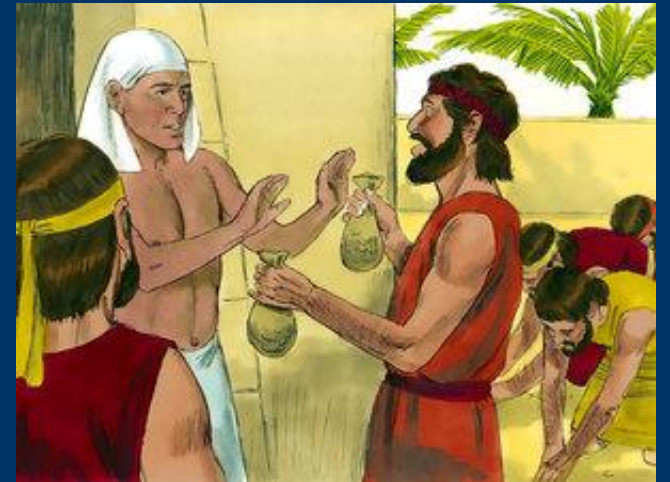


II. FEARFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH'S BUTLER

B. The Uneasy Explanation

Gen 43:21 *But at the place where we stopped for the night we opened our sacks and each of us found his silver — the exact weight — in the mouth of his sack. So we have brought it back with us.*

22 *We have also brought additional silver with us to buy food. We don't know who put our silver in our sacks."*



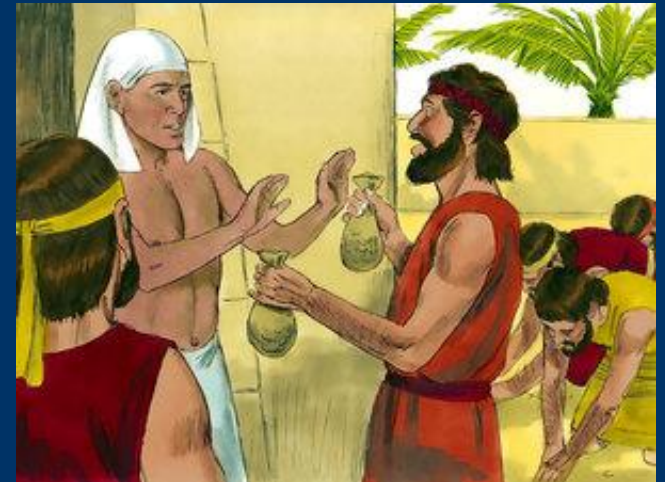
II. FEARFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH'S BUTLER

C. The Calming Response

Gen 43:23a "It's all right," he said. "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver."

23b Then he brought Simeon out to them.

24 The steward took the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet and provided fodder for their donkeys.



III. GRATEFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH

A. *The Reunion*

Gen 43:25 *They prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon, because they had heard that they were to eat there.*

26 *When Joseph came home, they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house, and they bowed down before him to the ground.*



III. GRATEFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH

A. *The Reunion*

Gen. 43:27 *He asked them how they were, and then he said, "How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still living?"*

28 *They replied, "Your servant our father is still alive and well." And they bowed down, prostrating themselves before him.*



III. GRATEFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH

A. *The Reunion*

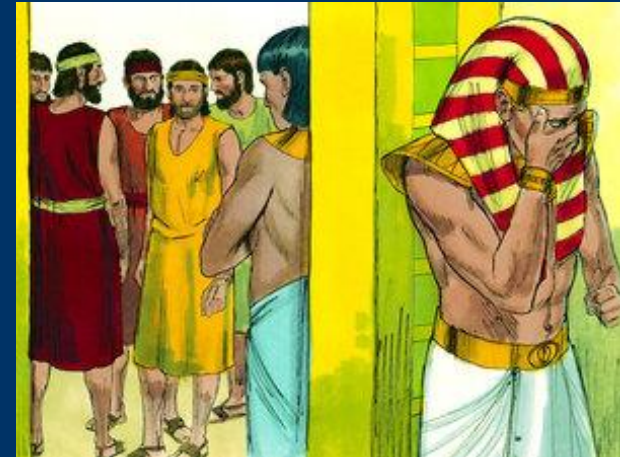
Gen. 43:29 *As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."*



III. GRATEFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH

B. *The Emotion*

Gen. 43:30 *Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there.*

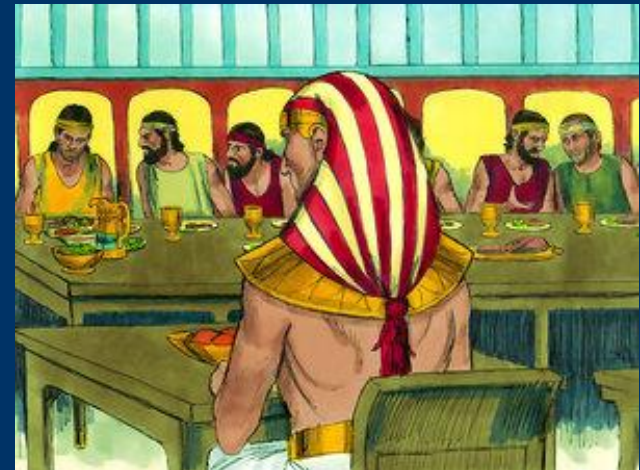


III. GRATEFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH

C. *The Fellowship*

Gen 43:32 *They served him by himself, the brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because Egyptians could not eat with Hebrews, for that is detestable to Egyptians.*

33 *The men had been seated before him in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest; and they looked at each other in astonishment.*



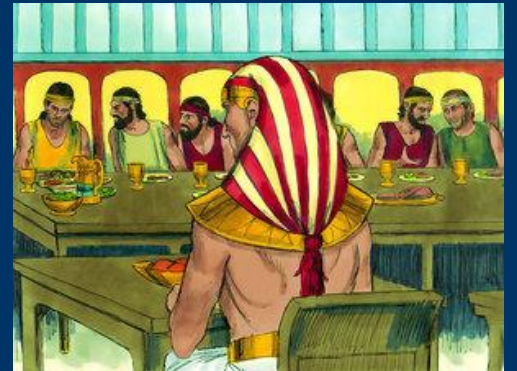
III. GRATEFUL BROTHERS WITH JOSEPH

C. *The Fellowship*

Gen 43:34 *When portions were served to them from Joseph's table, Benjamin's portion was five times as much as anyone else's. So they feasted and drank freely with him.*

Three odd things happen that the brothers cannot explain.

- 1. They were seated in order of age.**
- 2. They were sharing the food from his privileged table.**
- 3. They were not jealous that Benjamin's food was five times more than theirs.**

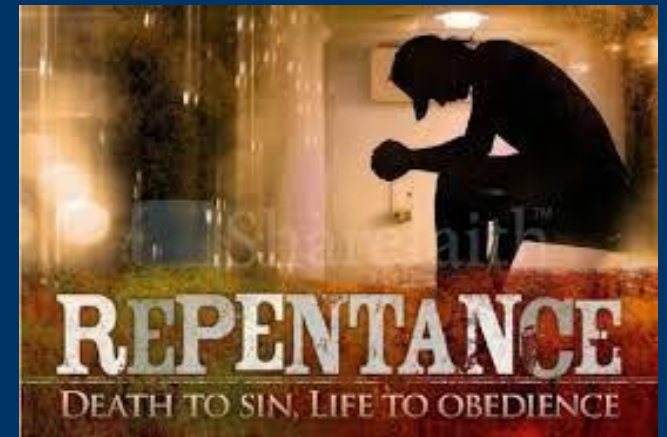


IV. APPLICATION AND ANALOGY

Isaiah 30

Isa. 30:1 Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD,
"Who execute a plan, but not Mine,
And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit,
In order to add sin to sin; ...

15 This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says:
"In **repentance** and rest is your salvation,
in quietness and trust is your strength,
but you would have none of it.



IV. APPLICATION AND ANALOGY

Isaiah 30

Isa. 30:18 Yet the Lord longs to be **gracious** to you;
therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.
For the Lord is a God of justice.
Blessed are all who wait for him!



CONCLUSION:



From Isaiah's words and Joseph's example there are two things for us to remember.

- 1. Waiting allows time for REPENTANCE.*
- 2. Waiting results in learning how to REST.*





CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. When was the last time you have a reunion with someone close that you wanted to meet again? What was the feeling like?*
- 2. During their second journey back to Egypt, what are the things that troubled them most?*
- 3. Describe how Joseph felt when he saw his younger brother, Benjamin? Why is a guilty mind haunted by suspicion?*
- 4. Why were the brothers astonished by the Egyptian butler's response to their explanation of the silver found in the sacks?*
- 5. Why was Joseph so emotional when his attention shifts to Benjamin?*
- 6. Why aren't the ten brothers jealous with Benjamin for having five times more portion than they received?*



Scripture References:

Genesis 43:15-34