

The Journeys of Joseph's Brothers

Genesis 42–43

When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Go down and buy grain for us, that we may live and not die." So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.

Now Joseph was the governor of the land. Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. He tested them by accusing them of being spies. He had Simeon bound. Joseph said, "Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you." Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey.

Now the famine was severe in the land. When they had eaten the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little food." But Judah said to him, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die." Their father, Israel, said, "If it must be so, then do this."

So they took double the money with them, and Benjamin. They arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph. When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Bring the men into the house, and slaughter an animal and make ready, for the men are to dine with me at noon." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

They sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth. The men looked at one another in amazement.¹ Portions were taken to them from Joseph's table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. And they drank and were merry with him.

Later, Joseph commanded the steward of his house, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack, and put the silver cup in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain." He did as Joseph told him.

Explanatory Notes

¹Seriously. 'Benjamin, the youngest brother.' They were amazed at being seated exactly according to their age.



Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

For Reflection

1. What occurrence astonished the brothers at the meal to which Joseph had invited them?
2. How had Judah assured Jacob regarding the safety of Benjamin?
3. How has Jesus taken personal responsibility for us before our Father in heaven?

Words to Remember

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
John 15:12