

Joseph Makes Himself Known to His Brothers

Genesis 44-45

The men had gone only a short distance from the city. And Joseph said to his steward, "Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good? Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this.'"

They said to him, "Behold, the money that we found in the mouths of our sacks we brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? Whichever of your servants is found with it shall die, and we also will be my lord's servants."

Each man quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack. And he searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Then they tore their clothes,¹ and returned to the city.

Joseph said to them, "What deed is this that you have done? The man in whose hand the cup was found shall be my servant."

Then Judah went up to him and said, "Please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father."

Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed² at his presence.

So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please. I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.³ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry.⁴ I will provide for you.' Hurry and bring my father down here." And he kissed all his brothers.

Explanatory Notes

¹Tore their outer clothing to show their grief. ²Terrified. ³Joseph understood God's plan. ⁴Delay.



"God sent me before you to preserve life."

For Reflection

1. Judah volunteered to serve as a substitute for Benjamin. How does Judah remind us of Jesus?
2. Joseph made himself known to his brothers, adding that God was working in the events that had occurred to save their lives. Explain.
3. How does God make Himself known to us? Why is it important that He does?

Words to Remember

As the LORD has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. *Colossians 3:13*