

"Family Spies" (Part 1)  
Genesis 42

vv. 1-2 Q. (grabbing the context of 41:56) – What does Jacob do?

A. The famine extended north to \_\_\_\_\_ and affected Jacob and his family, so he sends his sons down to \_\_\_\_\_ where he heard there was grain to buy.

vv. 3–4 Q. Who goes and who stays?

A.

1. He sends the sons of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ (the ten).
2. He keeps back the only son left (supposedly) from the wife he loved (\_\_\_\_\_) – \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 5 Summary.

v. 6a Q. What was Joseph's title and primary role?

A.

1. Joseph was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the land.
2. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ the grain distribution – the person you had to have an \_\_\_\_\_ with, especially if you were a \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 6b Q. What did Jacob's son's do?

A. His brothers bowed down in humble \_\_\_\_\_ hoping to find favor to buy grain. It was not a \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 7 Q. What did Joseph realize and how did he react?

A.

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ them (because they were in their cultural clothes and because we don't change all that much in our facial identification - even after \_\_\_\_\_ years).

Note: Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_ when he sold into slavery, \_\_\_\_\_ when he became vice-regent, and \_\_\_\_\_ when he was reacquainted with his brothers.

2. But instead of revealing himself as their brother, he \_\_\_\_\_ not to know them and spoke \_\_\_\_\_ to them.
3. Joseph, basically, \_\_\_\_\_ them.

v. 8 Q. What information do we receive? How is this possible?

A. Joseph's brothers did not \_\_\_\_\_ him.

1. He was a \_\_\_\_\_ but now he is an adult. He would have \_\_\_\_\_ ...some.
2. He would have been \_\_\_\_\_ in his appearance. Clean shaven. Makeup. Clothing. Name change.
3. They would not have \_\_\_\_\_ in their wildest dreams that their brother – a \_\_\_\_\_ the last time they saw him – would be an \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 9 Q. What did Joseph remember and what did he do next?

A.

1. He remembered the \_\_\_\_\_ where they \_\_\_\_\_ bowed down to him.
2. He accused them of being \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Out of \_\_\_\_\_ or...
  - b. To find out further \_\_\_\_\_ about his father and other brother.

vv. 10–11 Q. How did his brothers respond?

A.

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ the accusation.
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ as from all the same family.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ their honesty.

v. 12 Q. What was Joseph's reiterated accusation?

A. Same charge...\_\_\_\_\_.

v. 13 Q. What heart-wrenching statement is given to Joseph by his brothers?

A. They (for some unknown reason) go into detail about their \_\_\_\_\_...perhaps to garner \_\_\_\_\_...but it simply reminds Joseph that he is the "\_\_\_\_\_ who is no more."

vv. 14–17 Q. For a third time he accuses them and demands what? Why?

A.

1. Same accusation...\_\_\_\_\_.
2. One can leave and get your \_\_\_\_\_ brother.

3. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ confirming whether you are honest or lying.

Note: Joseph was preparing a test for them to see if they were \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ for selling him. The test would be to put them in the same position of \_\_\_\_\_ themselves over their other brother.

vv. 18-20 Q. Joseph rethinks things and decides to do what?

- A. After three days, Joseph decides to let all his brothers, except \_\_\_\_\_, go to perform the task. [a reversal]

Note: Prior to this Joseph uses “\_\_\_\_\_” as the ultimate authority (v. 15) but here he uses the Hebrew title, “\_\_\_\_\_” which must have taken them by surprise.

vv. 21–22 Q. What internal reality comes rushing in?

- A.
1. The idea of divine \_\_\_\_\_ is surfacing. “He suffered...\_\_\_\_\_ we are suffering.” “We showed him no mercy...\_\_\_\_\_, we are not being shown mercy.”
  2. The idea of divine \_\_\_\_\_ is surfacing. “We shed his blood...\_\_\_\_\_, our blood will be shed.”

vv. 23-24a Q. How did Joseph react?

- A. Not \_\_\_\_\_ do the Scriptures tell us that Joseph wept – except for \_\_\_\_\_. Not when he was thrown into the pit. Not when he was sold into slavery. Not when he was unfairly accused and thrown into prison. Only here...when he senses his brothers’

\_\_\_\_\_. When he learns that \_\_\_\_\_ tried to save him. When he learns that his \_\_\_\_\_ is still alive as well as his little \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 24b Q. Why Simeon?

A. Since \_\_\_\_\_ was vindicated, Simeon was \_\_\_\_\_ in line and...also known for his \_\_\_\_\_ (the Dinah incident).

vv. 25-26 Q. What did Joseph order?

- A.
1. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ their request for grain.
  2. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ had their silver put back into the sacks of grain.
  3. Joseph, \_\_\_\_\_ gave them provisions for the journey back home.

vv. 27-28 Q. What happened and what was it connected to?

- A.
1. One their way home, it was noticed that their \_\_\_\_\_ had been returned to them.
  2. They perceived it as another \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment for their sin against Joseph.

vv. 29-34 Recounting the story to Jacob.

v. 35 Q. What fell out?

A.

v. 36 Q. What came out?

A.

1. Jacob's anger toward his \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: \_\_\_\_\_. Every time the brothers are sent out, they come back with one less brother.

2. Jacob's anger toward...\_\_\_\_\_.

v. 37 Q. What was the first-born's response?

A.

1. Reuben makes an \_\_\_\_\_ using his own children.

2. Reuben is trying to \_\_\_\_\_ himself in his father's eyes as the first-born son.

v. 38 Q. How did Jacob respond?

A.

1. Jacob outright \_\_\_\_\_.

2. He cites Benjamin as his \_\_\_\_\_ that is left (presumably from Rachel).

3. I am certain that this \_\_\_\_\_ ...again.

**Application question:**

Q. What should we do with spiritual "I told you so's"?

A.

Q. God's heart is for people who are estranged to be reconciled but there are often huge obstacles. Which one's can we identify as we look at Joseph and his brothers?

A.

Q. How does a lack of forgiveness or grieve in losing someone continue to block other relationships?

A.