

This week...

Scripture: Genesis 42-43

Monday Genesis 41:57; 42:3-4 *“And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world...Then ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.”*

What can we learn about Jacob from these verses? Remember, this takes place 20+ years after Joseph’s “death”. What might we discover about his frame of mind, his family, and his faith in Jehovah?

Tuesday Genesis 42:10-13 *“‘No, my lord,’ they answered. ‘Your servants have come to buy food. We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies.’ ‘No!’ he said to them. ‘You have come to see where our land is unprotected.’ But they replied, ‘Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more.’”*

This is the first time Joseph has seen his brothers since they sold him into slavery a very long time ago. What would have been your thoughts and reactions to the brothers, especially regarding their comments “Your servants”, “honest men”, and “one who is no more”? How was Joseph able to contain himself?

Wednesday Genesis 42:21-22, 24 *“‘Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come upon us.’ Reuben replied, ‘Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn’t listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.’...He turned away from them and began to weep”*

Define “grace”. They thought him to be an Egyptian unfamiliar with Hebrew, but Joseph listens to his brothers’ conversation in their native tongue. How would you draw similarities between the grace shown by Joseph and that demonstrated by Christ toward us?

Thursday Genesis 43:11-12 *“Then their father Israel said to them, ‘If it must be, then do this: Put some of the best products of the land in your bags and take them down to the man as a gift—a little balm and a little honey, some spices and myrrh, some pistachio nuts and almonds. Take double the amount of silver with you, for you must return the silver that was put back into the mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake.’”*

Can you imagine trying to buy off or appease one of the wealthiest men on earth with worthless bobbles? Jacob was hoping he could buy mercy and forgiveness from the Prime Minister. In light of God’s grace, how many times have you tried to “buy” God’s grace or strike a deal with Him? It is not hard to ignore the king in the distant land as long as we have plenty and are making it, but when the bottom falls out, when our world comes crashing down, we become desperate for His mercy and grace and often try to gain them on our terms.

Friday Luke 19:41-42 *“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.’”*

Jesus was looking 2,000 years down the road of history. His grace knows no bounds. How much grace flows from your life into others? The Lord can enable and use us just as He did Joseph. Take time to note how Joseph became a man of grace.