**Walk Through the Bible**

**Lesson Number Twenty Nine**

© 2015 Jay S. McMullan

**Joseph’s brothers leave Simeon with Jacob and return to Canaan with grain. The brothers made a second trip to Egypt to buy grain and took Benjamin. Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. Food and carts are sent to Canaan to bring Jacob and all the tribe back to Goshen. God’s people live in favor among Pharaoh and are provided for during the rest of the famine.**

Jacob (Israel) sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain because the famine had reached into Canaan. We know by now that Joseph realized it was his brothers but they did not recognize him. The brothers probably had long hair and beards and Joseph may have been clean shaven and may have had short hair. The culture was different in Egypt than in Canaan and Joseph had assimilated into the Egyptian culture. Remember also that Joseph’s name had been changed to Zaphenath-Paneah so the people of Egypt would not have referred to him as “Joseph.” He spoke in the Egyptian language too, instead of his native tongue and he used an interpreter to speak to his brothers. His brothers sure weren’t expecting him to be in any position of authority. They probably thought he was still alive but was a poor slave.

Joseph made the brothers leave Simeon with him and they were told to bring Benjamin with them the next time they came to Egypt. If they did, they would be allowed to trade freely in Egypt. Jacob was not happy about it. He had lost Joseph, which caused him a lot of stress, and now he felt like he had lost Simeon. But they soon ran out of grain and lest they all starve, he had no choice but to let them go back into Egypt and take Benjamin along so they could purchase more grain. By this time, their tribe had grown quite large and Jacob felt the responsibility to make sure his wives, children and grandchildren were fed and cared for.

Can you imagine how heart-broken Jacob must have been when he saw his sons leave with his youngest, Benjamin?

But, Jacob was not trusting the Lord!

Isn’t that the way we are?

We just expect the worst to happen and we don’t trust that everything the Lord has told us is true. He has promised to bless us! He has promised to prosper us! He has promised us health! He has promised us all the good things in life, life “more abundantly!” (John 10:10) But our old sin nature chooses to FEAR instead of have FAITH! God forgive us and help us walk in faith!

The brothers began to argue among themselves in front of Joseph.

**Genesis 42:21-23 (NLT)**

**21**They said to one another, “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 on us.”

**22**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.” **23**They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter.

Look what sin does. It makes you doubt. It makes you presume the worst. You’ll have a whole lot simpler life **if you walk free from sin**. That is like people who lie. They tell one lie, then they have to tell another lie to cover their first lie. Then they have to tell a lie to cover their second lie and so forth. They finally forget the lies they told from the beginning!

So the brothers go back to Egypt, taking Benjamin with them. Jacob made sure to send twice the money they needed for grain, thinking a mistake was made when the silver for the grain initially was found in their bags.

**Genesis 43:19-34 (NLT)**

**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. **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.”

**23**“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.” 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. **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. **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.

**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.” **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.

**31**After he had washed his face, he came out and, controlling himself, said, “Serve the food.”

**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. **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.

Joseph decided to have some fun with the brothers. It was a pretty mean practical joke but he told his servants to fill their sacks with grain and then to put all their silver in the mouth of the sacks like they had done the first time. Then he told his servants to take his silver cup and put it in Benjamin’s sack along with the grain and silver. Once again, the brothers did not know this had been done.

The silver cup was a “divining cup.” The Egyptians were into witchcraft and magic. It is said that they would take hot wax and drop it into the divining cup that was full of water and then they would study the shapes of the cooled wax to divine the future. Later on, in the Bible, we see when Moses was before Pharaoh that there were two Egyptian magicians Jannes and Jambres.

When they got a little way out of town, Joseph sent his servant to go after them and he was playing a trick on them. The servant caught up to them and asked them why they would “repay good with evil.”

The brothers didn’t know what he was talking about but Joseph’s servant began to search the sacks from the oldest to the youngest. This made it take longer. Judah told the servant if anyone had stolen Joseph’s cup that that son and the rest would become slaves to Joseph. Well, they were shocked when the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack.

When they stood before Joseph, he asked them if they didn’t know that **he could discover things like this theft by divining**. Joseph demanded that they go and leave Benjamin with him as his slave. Judah begged to take Benjamin’s place. He told Joseph that their father would die if he found that his second son through Rachel had been kept in Egypt. Judah could not bear to see his father go through that.

**Genesis Chapter 45**

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. **2**And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.

**3**Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because **they were terrified at his presence.**

**4**Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! **5**And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. **6**For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. **7**But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

**8**“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. **9**Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. **10**You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. **11**I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

**12**“You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. **13**Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

**14**Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. **15**And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

**16**When the news reached Pharaoh’s palace that Joseph’s brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. **17**Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, **18**and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the **best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.’**

**19**“You are also directed to tell them, ‘Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. **20**Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.’”

**21**So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey. **22**To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekelsof silver and five sets of clothes. **23**And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey. **24**Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, “Don’t quarrel on the way!”

**25**So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. **26**They told him, “Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt.”Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them. **27**But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, **the spirit of their father Jacob revived.** **28**And Israel said, “I’m convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”

In **Chapter 46**, we see that Jacob and all of his people load everything they have on the wagons that Pharaoh sent them and they move to Egypt.

Joseph travels to Goshen and greets his father. The Bible says they hugged for a long time.

Joseph told his brothers that if Pharaoh asked what their profession was, to tell them they were shepherds and ranchers and their ancestors had been before them. We are told that shepherds and ranchers were despised in Egypt. Apepi was the Pharaoh at this time and he was a **“Shepherd Pharaoh.”** The shepherd Pharaohs were very hard on the Egyptians and were despised. For that reason, shepherds and ranchers were despised. Apepi would have ranching and shepherding in common with Joseph’s brothers.

**Genesis 47:7-12 (NLT)**

**7**Then Joseph brought in his father, Jacob, and presented him to Pharaoh. And Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

**8**“How old are you?” Pharaoh asked him.

**9**Jacob replied, “I have traveled this earth for 130 hard years. But my life has been short compared to the lives of my ancestors.” **10**Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh again before leaving his court.

**11**So Joseph assigned the best land of Egypt—the region of Rameses—to his father and his brothers, and he settled them there, just as Pharaoh had commanded. **12**And Joseph provided food for his father and his brothers in amounts appropriate to the number of their dependents, including the smallest children.

The famine became very severe in Egypt and Canaan. The people had spent all their money buying grain and Joseph put all that money in Pharaoh’s treasury.

The people came to him and told him that they didn’t have any money left and they were going to starve to death if Joseph didn’t give them grain. They offered their cattle, sheep, horses and the rest of their livestock in exchange for grain.

The next year the people came to Joseph and they had nothing left to trade for grain than their land and themselves. So Pharaoh ended up owning all the land of Egypt except for the land where the priests lived. They were given a yearly ration of grain from Pharaoh. The people ended up being slaves, by their own free will, to Pharaoh in exchange for grain.

Jacob lived 17 more years after he moved to Egypt. Before his death, he called Joseph in and made him take a vow that he would not bury him in Egypt but that he would take his body back to Canaan to be buried among his own people.

Next week, we will talk about what Jacob had to say about each of his sons. We will finish our study on Genesis.