

## **Genesis 43**

Now the famine was severe in the land. <sup>2</sup> So it came about, when they had finished eating the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food." <sup>3</sup> Judah spoke to him, however, saying, "The man sternly warned us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' <sup>4</sup> If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. <sup>5</sup> But if you do not send *him*, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

<sup>6</sup> Then Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly, by telling the man whether you still had *another* brother?" <sup>7</sup> But they said, "The man specifically asked about us and our relatives, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you *another* brother?' So we answered his questions. Could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'" <sup>8</sup> So Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the boy with me and we will arise and go, so that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones. <sup>9</sup> I myself will take responsibility for him! You may demand him back from me. If I do not bring him *back* to you and present him to you, then you can let me take the blame forever. <sup>10</sup> For if we had not delayed, surely by now we could have returned twice."

<sup>11</sup> Then their father Israel said to them, "If *it must be* so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man as a gift, a little balsam and a little honey, labdanum resin and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. <sup>12</sup> And take double *the* money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the opening of your sacks; perhaps it was a mistake.

<sup>13</sup> Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man; <sup>14</sup> and may God Almighty grant you compassion in the sight of the man, so that he will release to you your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my sons, I am bereaved!" <sup>15</sup> So the men took this gift, and they took double *the* money in their hand, and Benjamin; then they set out and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

Joseph Sees Benjamin

<sup>16</sup> When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to his house steward, "Bring the men into the house, and slaughter an animal and make preparations; for the men are to dine with me at noon." <sup>17</sup> So the man did as Joseph said, and brought the men to Joseph's house. <sup>18</sup> Now the men were afraid, because they were brought to Joseph's house; and they said, "*It is* because of the money that was returned in our sacks the first time that we are being brought in, so that he may attack us and overpower us, and take us as slaves with our donkeys." <sup>19</sup> So they approached Joseph's house steward, and spoke to him at the entrance of the house, <sup>20</sup> and said, "Oh, my lord, we indeed came down the first time to buy food,

<sup>21</sup> and it happened when we came to the campsite, that we opened our sacks, and behold, each man's money was in the opening of his sack, our money in full. So we have brought it back in our hand. <sup>22</sup> We have also brought down other money in our hand to buy food; we do not know who put our money in our sacks." <sup>23</sup> But he said, "Peace be to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; your money was in my possession." Then he brought Simeon out to them. <sup>24</sup> Then the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and

he gave their donkeys feed. <sup>25</sup> So they prepared the gift for Joseph's arrival at noon; for they had heard that they were to eat a meal there.

<sup>26</sup> When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the gift which was in their hand, and they bowed down to the ground before him. <sup>27</sup> Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, "Is your old father well, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" <sup>28</sup> And they said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." Then they bowed down *again* in homage. <sup>29</sup> And as he raised his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, he said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?" Then he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son." <sup>30</sup> Joseph then hurried *out*, for he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he looked *for a place* to weep; so he entered his chamber and wept there. <sup>31</sup> Then he washed his face and came out; and he controlled himself and said, "Serve the meal."

<sup>32</sup> Then they served him by himself, and Joseph's brothers by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat bread with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians. <sup>33</sup> Now they were seated before him, from the firstborn according to his birth right to the youngest according to his youth, and the men looked at one another in astonishment. <sup>34</sup> Then he took portions to them from his own table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank freely with him.

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**We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

**Pauls Observations and insights**

1. The dreaded day came, the day everyone knew would come, when the food would run out.
2. Where is your go to place when you are empty and the provision has run out?
3. Again, Jacob takes initiative to act, he says to his sons 'go back to Egypt and buy food'.
4. Judas instinctively knows, with conviction, there is no point in going back to Egypt to get more food unless Benjamin, their youngest brother, goes with them.
5. For it is the man Joseph who is the one who will decide who and who can't buy food.
6. The brothers are only willing to go back to Egypt if Benjamin is going with them.
7. Why did they not take an 'imposter' Benjamin?
8. Jacob knows he has no choice but to send Benjamin back to Egypt. He expresses his frustration with his sons at their foolishness in disclosing they had another brother!
9. Why did they not think it unusual that Joseph asked so many questions about their family? Were they not just a little bit suspicious?
10. The brothers tried to justify to Jacob, their father, as to why they had been so open about their family to Joseph.

11. Judas said 'send the lad with me', which means Benjamin was quite young.
12. They all know they will all die if they don't get food for the family.
13. Judas is willing to take the responsibility for the greater good. The loss of losing one to save the many.
14. Does this not sound familiar to you?
15. Judas is frustrated they hadn't already gone.
16. Jacob makes available gifts for the rulers in Egypt. Some of these gifts are food from their land.
17. Why were they not eating these things to survive?
18. He instructs them to pay twice the amount and to return the money found in the sacks.
19. What does it mean for God the Almighty to grant you passion in the eyes of men?
20. Jacob is doing the best he can to bring about a good outcome but he is fearing the worst!
21. To trust is to let go of all and to look to God to be there for you, in mercy.
22. Can you imagine the reunion for Joseph when he first set his eyes on Benjamin?
23. Having seen his brothers arrive Joseph provides a celebration meal for them.
24. The brothers fear the worst outcome, they introduce lies to their minds and their hearts. Why do they do this?
25. What happens to you when you believe a lie?
26. Again they try to take matters into their own hands by nobbling a house guard.
27. The brothers are great story tellers but it's all for nothing, words, words and more words, but these words are empty.
28. Insincere words and insincere ministry helps no-one.
29. The guardsmen already know why the money is in their sacks, which is why they tell their brothers to be at ease, which means don't worry.
30. It is the guardsmen who bring physical refreshments to them and their cattle.
31. In life all our needs need to be met, body, soul and spirit.
32. Joseph asks about the welfare of their dad. They respond with more words of insincerity. Had they not learnt their lesson previously?
33. Joseph takes Benjamin aside, how are the brothers feeling about bringing him now?
34. Joseph is emotionally overwhelmed and restrains himself in front of the brothers, but then breaks down and cries when he sees Benjamin.
35. Were the tears of Joseph tears of joy or tears of sadness?
36. What was Joseph doing to control himself?
37. Egyptians and Jews don't eat food together.
38. How much apprehension was in that house? Could you of 'cut the atmosphere with a knife'?
39. Benjamin is given the larger portions. Why?
40. Distractions from his troubled heart. Who do you go to when your heart is troubled?
41. Whose report will you believe?