

No Food Without Benjamin!

050201-4

Hello! This is Dorothy -

I want us today to continue to listen to the life of Joseph. That is back there in the first book of the Bible, actually in **Genesis, chapter 41**, where we are looking at **verses 56 to 57**. You see, Joseph, in love, had punished his brothers. He called them spies and he put them in prison for three days. Then he had held on to Simeon, one of his brothers, and would not let him go back home. Now why that was so, we do not know. It could be that Simeon was the one who had arranged that Joseph be sold as a slave in Egypt many years before. But whatever it was about, these brothers were desperate to bring the corn back, not only to their households but to their father, Jacob.

Could you imagine how Joseph felt at this time? Could you imagine what he was going through in his own heart? He loved his brothers.; he wanted to know about his father; he wanted to know about his brother Benjamin, who was the other brother that was born to the beloved mother, Rachel. Could you imagine what the turmoil was?

Sometimes we wonder why difficult, difficult things happen around our lives, but we do not realize what it is costing the Lord. In love, He allows things to happen; He has a reason, because He is drawing

us in love to Himself; He is causing us to let His Spirit work within and show what is within us in how we are deceiving ourselves. Therefore, all the time, Joseph was in agony inside. He was a lonely man; he had no family; his family was in Canaan. He could have right away thought of himself and what he could get out of it, but he went God's way for there was a much greater purpose in the test that was going to come.

The first test that we read of is begins in **verse 25 of chapter 42**

25 Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn. . . - they were going home, so they loaded them up - . . . and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way. . . - that meant they would not be going into their sacks - . . . and thus did he unto them.

26 And they laden their asses with the corn, and departed thence.

27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender. . . - to give him food - . . . in the inn . . . - where they were staying- . . . he espied his money: for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth.

28 And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored: and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us? Isn't it interesting what God does to awaken

our consciences to Himself? They were not saying, “What did that man that we cannot stand do to us? Why would he do this?” It is what **God hath done**.. Every one of us, whether we realize or not, is accountable to the living God. We cannot hide or get away from anything; every one of us has an accountability, because Jesus Christ died and paid the price for all our sin — for every person on the face of the earth. We have an accountability as to whether we are willing to let that count for us or whether we say we want nothing; we do not want this One to rule over us.

29 And they came back unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying,

30 The man, who is the lord of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.

31 And we said to him . . . -now listen to this - . . .We are true men; we are no spies: *Isn't it funny how we think so well of ourselves? We forget our yesterdays; we forget the sin of what we have done. “We are pretty good! After all, **we are true men!**”*

32 We be twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not . . ., - *and they were telling the father what they had said. The father did not like this later on, because they had to explain that they were good. They blabbed too much, as it were; they told out too much. They explained about the father, but they also said the **one who is not** - that is how they spoke about Joseph. Little did they know they were telling it to Joseph!*

32 . . . and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canann.

33 And the man, the lord of the country, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye are true men; leave one of your brethren here with me, and take food for the famine of your households, and be gone:

34 And. . . - listen to this - . . . bring your youngest brother unto me; then shall I know that ye are no spies, but that ye are true men: so will I deliver your brother, and ye shall traffick in the land. - *in other words, they would be able to buy more.* This is quite a frightening statement. It literally meant that Joseph was testing to see this other brother, Benjamin, the son of Rachel. After all, they wouldn't care about him if they treated him like they treated Joseph, but that wasn't the fact. They were afraid. You see, God was working at their consciences, and Jacob felt, "What more mischief is going to take place?"

43:1 And the famine was sore in the land. Yes, the day came that they had to go back with the brother, Benjamin.

Oh, may God speak in your life and heart in the circumstances you are in. Say, *King of my life, I crown Thee now. Thine shall the glory be!* All glory to the Lord only, whatever the circumstances.

In His precious Name. Amen.

