

Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 11

“1 Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? 2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. 3 And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. 4 But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him. 5 And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan. 6 And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.” (Genesis 42:1-6 KJV)

God continued to reward Joseph and now as we read God worked out that Joseph would be meeting with his siblings to deal with their sin and their wrong doings with him and even later on he will be going to meet his brother Benjamin and his father Jacob.

The famine that God allowed over all the face of the earth had included the land of Canaan, and so the family of Joseph, his siblings and his brother families and his father Jacob got affected with it and needed to go down to Egypt to buy corn for them in order to survive.

At that time what was the spiritual situation of Joseph's family? His ten brothers went down to Egypt, their sin with their brother Joseph was not yet judged, but that was the time for it to be judged. Jacob was still favoring his children from Rachel because he favored Rachel over Leah although he was fully aware that Leah was his lawful wife being the first. Because of such favoritism he did not sent Benjamin with them though Benjamin was married at that time and had a family; Jacob's excuse for that as he said was ***“Lest peradventure mischief befall him.”*** So Benjamin was kept with Jacob his father and the other ten siblings of Joseph went down to Egypt among those who travelled and came to Egypt to buy corn for the famine was even in the land of Canaan. Joseph was in charge over the land and he was the one who was selling for all the people, therefore his brethren needed to go to him, and as they reached his office they bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the ground. Sure it was a shocking moment for Joseph to see and meet his siblings after around twenty two years of separation. The way he received them and how he acted with them we can read in the following verses:

“7 And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food. 8 And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him. 9 And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come. 10 And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come. 11 We are all one man's sons; we are true men, thy servants are no spies. 12 And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.” (Genesis 42:7-12 KJV) Once he saw them he recognized them but he acted wisely and controlled his emotions. He did not declare himself to them but showed himself as a stranger toward them. He controlled his

emotions not because he was angry or wanted to revenge of them but because they were still not repented and their sin of the past and their wrong doing needed to be judged and dealt with. **True love is when you deal properly with the sins of the sinners so they will repent got saved and enter into the kingdom of God. There is no point and it is harmful when you are dragged with your emotions and give love and support while sin had not yet been dealt with.** Joseph did not do that and was able to control his emotions and acted wisely and made himself strange unto them and spoke even roughly to them in order to serve the purpose in dealing with their past sin with him so they will repent. Roughly he asked them from where they came; he talked to them in a harsh and a rebuke manner to make them wake up and face hard time to bring them back to the atmosphere where they previously afflicted him when he was under them. But now God turned the table and they were under him and Joseph was dealing with their sin. They answered him that they had come from the land of Canaan to buy food from Egypt. He knew them and was assured they were his brothers especially after they answered that they came from the land of Canaan. At once Joseph remembered his old dreams that he dreamed of them; perhaps the Holy Spirit reminded him of that, and so immediately told them and accused them that they were spies and they had come to explore the land and see the weak points in it. This he said unto them to put them in panic, and to get terrified perhaps to be reminded and brought back to them the sin that they did against him in the past. They were terrified with his accusation and started to deny that and stated that they were innocent and they came only to buy food from Egypt, calling themselves his servants. Further to vindicate and to prove themselves innocent started to declare the status of their family, the very thing that Joseph wanted to hear from them because he could not ask them about his father Jacob and his brother Benjamin unless themselves open that matter to him so he would not be exposed to them. The wisdom that God gave him and he used brought him good results. Perhaps Joseph was expecting one day he will meet his family that they would be forced to come and meet him to buy food from Egypt and he might be somehow prepared for such an event, or the matter was out of his mind and the Holy Spirit of God just taught him what to do when he met them as Joseph was always standing with God and was willing to do God's will and what He wanted him to do and was not following the emotions or the inclination of his heart. So the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- **Be ready all the time to be used by God and to do His will.**
- **Keep always your emotions under control and the inclinations of your heart aside so that you will be able to deal properly with sin and sinners in order to lead them into repentance.**
- **Don't revenge of your enemies and harm them when God place them in your hand.**
- **Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit and be willing to do what God needs you to do.**

“13 And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.” (Genesis 42:13 KJV) The rude way that Joseph spoke with his brothers forced them to speak more details and declare more information that Joseph was waiting to hear. They confessed to him with what they said that their father Jacob was still alive and the younger brother of Joseph Benjamin was with his father and did not go down with them

to Egypt, which showed also that Jacob was not yet repented of his favoritism. Also they said about Joseph that he was no more meant he was dead, and that was a lie from their side and did not confess that they were the one who sold him and was sent to Egypt to be sold as a slave. In saying such it showed to Joseph that they had not yet repented of what they did to him. From what happened in this verse the following are the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph:

- Be wise to use certain strategies to get certain information in an indirect way.
- Be wise to use what data given to you to obtain certain conclusions that would help you to plan your next move.
- Be discerning to find out if the people repented or not.
- Be ready at all times to be used by God and to do His will.

After what he heard from them, Joseph spoke to them and did to them the following: **“14 And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies: 15 Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither. 16 Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies. 17 And he put them all together into ward three days.”** (Genesis 42:14-17 KJV) When they lied in front of him Joseph then insisted to them that they were spies in order to put a discipline and punishment on them that would impart to them the fear of the judgment and that might help them to repent, realizing their wrongdoing toward Joseph deciding to repent and come back to God. Joseph immediately used the opportunity as they were under his hand. He declared to them by the authority that he got from Pharaoh that they were arrested and they would not be able to leave that place unless their younger brother would come there. He told them and gave them the choice to send one of them to go and to bring Benjamin, otherwise if they would not be able to do that then sure they were spies and such would be a capital crime on them that would lead them to be executed. Upon declaring all that on them sure they were in shock and Joseph acted promptly on them in order to impart on them the great fear of the coming judgment and so he put them in jail and for three days, as God put Jonah in the belly of the great fish in bringing His judgment on him to lead him to repentance. In what Joseph declared to them was not only the dealing of God on them for what they did with him in the past but also the dealing of God to his father Jacob who was in the sin of favoritism in his dealing of his sons due to his second marriage to Rachel. Joseph controlled his emotions and stood with God in allowing God to deal with all his family members and showed his full support and agreement as he stood with God. **What Joseph did was odd but that was the true love of God to his family and he was willing to be the vessel to convey such a love to them.** So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Be strong control your emotions to implement the discipline and the punishment that those who are near to you and whom you love need in order to bring the fear of God on them to bring them to repentance.
- Stand with God and give him your full support and agreement by your willingness to do even the odd things for the sake of God.
- Be wise by being willing to be the vessel that God would use to bring his love to your family and to those who are near to you.

- Fear God in a true way by doing his will and by refraining from following your own emotions.
- Again don't revenge and intend to do harm to those who hurt you when God allow them to be under your hand.

“18 And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: 19 If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: 20 But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.” (Genesis 42:18-20 KJV) After he gave them the discipline and the punishment that they needed to pass through to humble them and make them fear God and consider their ways and repent of their sins, he came back to them on the third day declaring to them what they needed to do in order for them to live. He told them that he fear God and what he meant is that though they had done wrong doings against him, but he fear God, he would not harm them and do them evil as they did to him, and he will only keep one of them in prison in their stead and that the rest will go, allowing them to carry food for their families so they will live and would not perish. In addition he put on them the condition that they needed to bring their younger brother to him so that what they had said about their family would be verified and prove they were not spies. Joseph made it here very clear to them that they will not be able to come and take food from Egypt unless they will bring Benjamin. He was so loving and considerate that he will give them food, but they cannot get any more food unless they will bring Benjamin. In such Joseph made it also clear that his father needed to repent of his favoritism that came from his second marriage to Rachel and needed to amend his ways so he can receive another food when what he was sending now with his siblings would be finished. Joseph feared God in giving another chance for his siblings and his father Jacob to repent. He also loved them but he did not go with his emotions and provided them with food unless they would repent, I mean his sibling and his father that they needed to repent of their sins and amend their ways. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Punish and discipline those who need to undergo through such.
- Be in the fear of God and give those who need to be disciplined and punished another chance to repent of their sins and amend their ways so they and those dependents on them would have the chance to live and not to perish.
- Fear God and do not let your emotions fail you in not obeying what you need to do with those who sin and refuse to amend their ways.
- Before you provide for those who are among your love ones you need to be sure that they had repented of their sins and they are in the right attitude.

“21 And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. 22 And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.” (Genesis 42:21-22 KJV) His discipline to them was effective and brought them to the point that their conscience started to prick them of the evil they did to their brother Joseph in the past. They remembered how they very badly mistreated him and now what they did had come back on them. It seemed the Holy Spirit was working on them and Reuben spoke to them and reminded them that he had told them

before not to sin against Joseph when they conspired against him but they did not hear and now his blood was required from them. They linked their present hardship with the evil that they did in the past.

“23 And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter. 24 And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes. 25 Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them. 26 And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence.” (Genesis 42:23-26 KJV) Joseph was listening to them; and they were not aware that he understood their language because he spoke to them by an interpreter who was translating between them. He was acting very wisely with them that they should not know who he was until he would know what was inside them if they had repented or not. As he listened to them he could not control himself so he went away from them to another place to go and cry and then he returned to them again. That truly showed that he loved them but he needed to discipline them and do what was needed to be done in order to deal with the sin in that family. Since they did not proposed whom they would keep, Joseph took the initiative and chose Simeon and bound him before their eyes and put him in the prison in order that they will witness that was truly happened that they may fear, and consider seriously all the discipline that was placed over them, including that they would not be able to get another food unless they will bring Benjamin to him, as well as to convey the imprisonment of Simeon to their father so he would be also shaken and consider seriously all such events, humble down and amend his ways. But Joseph’s love was not failing, for he ordered to fill their sacs with corn, give them provision for the way, and to return each one of them money to his sac, laded their asses and so they left. Joseph was full of true love of God toward his family, but he was willing to imprison them for three days and to imprison his own brother Simeon as a true prisoner until the time that they came back to him with his brother Benjamin. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Be careful while you are dealing with sin and sinners that your plan of dealing should not be exposed to them. With such set up they would fear you more and consider seriously the discipline that you had placed over them.
- Control perfectly your emotions while you are implementing your discipline as you deal with sin and sinners.
- Take the initiate to do certain things so that the process of discipline to continue.
- Show the love of God and give bread and provision to maintain life while you are giving opportunity for the people to repent and amend their ways.
- Family members and the love ones you should not compromise with them and exclude them from discipline because you have emotions toward them.

Joseph’s sibling departed from him and went to Canaan with a harsh discipline, and a clear lesson that they would not forget. They were aware that the matter was serious and needed for them to comply otherwise they would not have bread to eat. Let us read to the end of the chapter to see and explain the impact of what they received from Joseph how it worked on them: *“27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, 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? (They were blessed but that blessing made them terrified because they were still in guilt of the evil they did to Joseph and so could not see the blessings of God.) 29 And they came 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 unto him, We are true men; we are no spies: 32 We be twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan. 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 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 you your brother, and ye shall traffick in the land. (They told to their father what Joseph did to them and the condition that they needed to do, in bringing Benjamin with them so they can go back and get food again. So Jacob was shaken and was aware now that the famine that God allowed was to deal with his sin.) 35 And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid. 36 And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me. (When they saw the money in each person sac, they and their father were terrified and failed to see the blessing of God on them because of their guilt that they had due to sin. That is how you cannot see the blessing of God when you have still sin in your life and you had not repented from it.) 37 And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again. 38 And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.” (Genesis 42:45-49 KJV) Jacob refused the proposal of Reuben, and declared that his son Benjamin would not go down to Egypt which confirms that the condition that Joseph put was also a discipline on his father for his sin of favoritism.

My dear and beloved: Meditate on the message, and see yourself where you are from the lessons that you received. Check yourself and repent of all your sins, compromises and your emotional shortcomings. Allow God to work in your life to lead you to repent of your sins and to lead you to control your emotions and perfect your attitude in order to be at the expectations of God to achieve the things that are required from you to do for yourself and for the people around you and for your love ones and to those who are under your care. Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that imparted to me wisdom and the fear of you and had taught me clearly your ways and how to apply them in my life and ministry. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections the admonishments and the lessons I received in this message.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your emotions and your compromises especially with your love ones. Repent and renounce all the sins of the past. Repent of

your fear of man and your lack of the fear of God. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of your stubbornness and non willingness to take warning. Confess of your lack of wisdom and discernment. Confess and renounce being bad example to others. Confess and renounce your non willingness to discipline your family and your compromises with them. Confess and renounce your anger and your revenge from those enemies whom God had placed under your hand. Confess your non willingness to go along God's will and the plan that He has for you. Repent of helping your love ones even while they are in sin and you are not doing anything about it. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and to serve Him in the way He wants you to be. Repent of your yoke with non believers and wasting your time on the Media, News and games. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins

Lord I commit myself to live according to the principles that we received from your Word to renounce my emotions and be willing to follow your plan to discipline my love ones and prove their repentance before I would give them what they ought to receive from you through me. Lord I commit myself to show love and give another chance to those whom you are dealing with in order to repent. Lord I commit myself not to revenge of my enemies whom you placed under my hand. Lord I am willing to go through the good plan that you have for me. Lord I commit myself to serve you and to suffer for your cause in serving your purpose in my life and in the life of my ministry and the people around me and under my care. Lord I commit to you the following situation _____, Lord give me wisdom and discernment how to handle it. Lord support me and help to stand firm in disciplining the following love ones of mine _____. Lord help me to overcome this struggle _____, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who accepted your Word and your will in their lives, and are willing to stand firm even against their emotions and to discipline their love ones in order to deal with their sin. Lord help them in their battles and give them victory and good results in all what they are doing. Lord reward them for all their hard work labor and suffering for you. Lord provide for them and sustain them and do wonders and miracles in their lives, and make their lives good examples to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to implement all the teaching we received in this message about how to deal with sinners and discipline our love ones and deal with their sins. Lord help us to continue to stand firm, not to compromise and not to overlook and condone sins in our families. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and lead us to evangelize, to make new disciples, to train new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord take the message and spread it to reach the rest of the church congregations and people who need to hear your Word. Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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