

Restoring Honor

Genesis Chapter 42

May 2007
30,000 responses Concerning Cheating / Honor

- 60.8% of college students surveyed have cheated. -- Of students who cheat, only 16.5% feel bad about it.
- The top three "cheating" schools are Ball State (71.9%), Appalachian State (67.9%) and Penn State (67.2%).
- At schools with an honor code, 67.6% of students cheat. -- At schools without an honor code, 41.5% of students cheat.
- The most popular single method of cheating is looking over someone's shoulder (14.5%) followed by storing the answers in a calculator (11.1%) and getting a test from a friend (9.2%), though many students (45.6%) use a combination of cheating methods.
- The most effective method of cheating is storing the answers in a calculator, judged by the average GPA of those who use that method (3.49). The least effective method is writing on yourself (average GPA: 3.27). --
- People who cheat have a higher average GPA (3.41) than those who don't (2.85).
- Religious students are more likely to cheat (65.4%) than those who aren't religious (58.3%).
- Males cheat more than females (64.8% vs. 42.0%).
- 24.6% of students have intentionally plagiarized.
- 12% of cheaters have been caught at some point in their cheating career, yet only 7.1% of people who got caught stopped cheating as a result.
- 45.9% of students allow others to cheat off of them.
- Those that cheat in school are 2.5 times more likely to cheat in their relationships than those that don't cheat in school.

Gen 42:1 **1) The Brothers Bow** vs 1-13

Now Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said to his sons, "Why are you staring at one another?"

Gen 42:2 He said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down there and buy {some} for us from that place, so that we may live and not die."

- *The famine is far reaching*
- *The Chosen People are not exempt from famines, droughts in the land*
- *The Brothers are just standing around, doing nothing*
 - *Famine we have seen was sent by God (Psalm 105)*
 - *Famine is a sign of spiritual poverty. God did not send famine just to send famine but to teach the sons who He was and to preserve the promised line. These brothers were standing around. The implied idea is that they didn't know what to do. They didn't have a relationship with God to ask and receive an answer concerning what to do. God, to preserve them after Jacob is gone has to teach them who He is. This lesson God has set up some 20+ years earlier.*
- *God is practical. We do not just stand and pray, we need to actually do practical things.*
 - *Believing has action to it. Jacob could have said "I heard there is grain in Egypt." Then stood around waiting for another sign or wanting Egypt to show him the grain*
 - *No! He Heard and believed and said go get some.*
 - *The Gospel says (Acts 16:31) "Believe on the Lord Jesus and thou shalt be saved."*
- *In Egyptian Culture it was offensive to send a servant to an official of Pharaoh's. This is why it was proper for Jacob to send his sons.*

Gen 42:3 Then ten brothers of Joseph went down to buy grain from Egypt.

Gen 42:4 But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "I am afraid that harm may befall him."

- *Benjamin is Joseph's younger brother, his only blood brother.*

- Joseph was 17 when sold into slavery. Served Potipher 7 years, In Jail 7 years, Served during 7 years of plenty and now approximately 2 years into a famine. Joseph is 39.
- Joseph hasn't seen his brother in 20 plus years
- Benjamin was maybe 3 yeas old when Joseph last saw him.

Gen 42:5 So the sons of Israel came to buy grain among those who were coming, for the famine was in the land of Canaan {also.}

Gen 42:6 Now Joseph was the ruler over the land; he was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him with {their} faces to the ground.

- All people had to come to Joseph to buy grain
- Brothers came to buy and entered and bowed down before him. Fulfilling the dream from Genesis 37:7 The dream concerning Grain and the sheaves of grain bowing down before his

Gen 42:7 When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly. And he said to them, "Where have you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."

- Joseph has become very much Egyptian. Shaven, fluent in the language, Dressed in fine linens and gold.
- He recognizes them and decides to disguise himself. Vs 23 tells us he uses an interpreter to speak to them.

Gen 42:8 But Joseph had recognized his brothers, although they did not recognize him.

Gen 42:9 Joseph remembered the dreams which he had about them, and said to them, "You are spies; you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land."

Gen 42:10 Then they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food.

Gen 42:11 "We are all sons of one man; we are honest men, your servants are not spies."

- Joseph is beginning to get some information about his father and his brother.
- Joseph also hears that they are honest men. Really???
- Honesty = quality of being honest, upright and fair, speaking truthfully with sincerity. It is being free from deceit or fraud. Honest comes from the word Honor
- Honor is a distinction of respect credited to an individual for the proved exceptional performance with regard to integrity, scholarship or moral principals.
- Example the movie "Men of Honor" Master Chief Carl Brashear Tested.

Gen 42:12 Yet he said to them, "No, but you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land!"

Gen 42:13 But they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers {in all,} the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and behold, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no longer alive."

- 12 brothers???? Interesting to Joseph.
- God's plan? To have the brothers lives really be honest or honorable. Honor needs to be proved.

Gen 42:14 **2) The Test** vs 14-24

Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you, you are spies;

Gen 42:15 by this you will be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here!

Gen 42:16 "Send one of you that he may get your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. But if not, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies."

- 1st suggested test is that all are confined except one who will get Benjamin and return proving their honesty
- As much as we would like revenge, God has a plan. Joseph, in whom was "a divine spirit" can yield to Gods plan and restores his brothers.
- Revenge is an act of one upon another in reprisal for an act done to the one.
- Restoration isn't complete with out testing. Do you need restoration? Expect testing.

- Gen 42:17 So he put them all together in prison for three days.
- Gen 42:18 Now Joseph said to them on the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God:
- *Isn't it interesting that life was offered to those in prison on the third day.*
 - *Joseph says "He fears God" speaking to his brothers that he is capable of hearing God and doing the right thing...*
 - *Joseph seems to always give God the place of prominence.*
 - *Before Potifer's wife. (this is a sin against God)*
 - *Before the Cupbearer and Baker (interpretations belong to God)*
 - *Before Pharaoh (It is not in me, God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer)*
 - *Now before his brothers (I Fear God)*
- Gen 42:19 if you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined in your prison; but as for {the rest of} you, go, carry grain for the famine of your households,
- *Joseph keys in on their own words "if you are honest.*
 - *So Joseph brings God's Name into the discussion and put their honesty to the test.*
 - *The 2nd suggested test to bring Benjamin to Egypt, One of the brothers must stay behind until he comes.*
- Gen 42:20 and bring your youngest brother to me, so your words may be verified, and you will not die." And they did so.
- Gen 42:21 Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us."
- Gen 42:22 Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not tell you, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood."
- *This really is the amazing part. The brothers after some 20+ years feel the guilt concerning their brother,*
 - *They were not guilty concerning killing the men of Shechem, or for Rueben sleeping with his fathers concubine, or for Judah not walking in integrity with his daughter in law.*
 - **Guilt causes us to have need of a Savior** Romans 3:19 "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."
- Gen 42:23 They did not know, however, that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them.
- Gen 42:24 He turned away from them and wept. But when he returned to them and spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.
- *Joseph is not able to maintain this façade. So he turns away only to return once he regains his composure*
- Gen 42:25 **3) The Real Test** vs 25-38
- Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain and to restore every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. And thus it was done for them.
- *To add a greater aspect to this test Joseph instructs his servants to put back all of the brothers money into their sack unbeknownst to the brothers and load them up with grain as though they had purchased the grain.*
- Gen 42:26 So they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed from there.
- Gen 42:27 As one {of them} opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money; and behold, it was in the mouth of his sack.
- Gen 42:28 Then he said to his brothers, "My money has been returned, and behold, it is even in my sack." And their hearts sank, and they {turned} trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"
- *Their hearts sank. They feared greatly feared.*

- *This so parallels what happen to Joseph.*
 - *Joseph was alone* *Simeon is alone*
 - *The Brother will receive money*
 - *What will they tell Dad*

They could easily Take the money, Give dad the grain and tell another sad story about one of his sons. A Test of Their Honesty!!!
- *Why shouldn't they return?*
 - *They were all in prison*
 - *They were all threatened with death*
 - *They were all falsely accused, it could happen again.*
 - *There is only one brother there now. Why risk the other 9 and Benjamin?*
 - *They have their Grain. They still have their silver.*
 - *Wouldn't they be considered thieves if they returned?*
- *They are thinking God is paying them back*

- Gen 42:29 When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying,
- *They tell the account honestly to their father.*
- Gen 42:30 "The man, the lord of the land, spoke harshly with us, and took us for spies of the country.
- Gen 42:31 "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.
- Gen 42:32 'We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no longer alive, and the youngest is with our father today in the land of Canaan.'
- Gen 42:33 "The man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me and take {grain for} the famine of your households, and go.
- Gen 42:34 'But bring your youngest brother to me that I may know that you are not spies, but honest men. I will give your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.' "
- Gen 42:35 Now it came about as they were emptying their sacks, that behold, every man's bundle of money {was} in his sack; and when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were dismayed.
- Gen 42:36 Their father Jacob said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and you would take Benjamin; all these things are against me."
- *Jacob tells the sons they always come with bad news.*
 - *2 Sons gone He isn't about to let another go.*
- Gen 42:37 Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring him {back} to you; put him in my care, and I will return him to you."
- Gen 42:38 But Jacob said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should befall him on the journey you are taking, then you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow."
- *Jacob still proclaim favoritism His only son is left.*
 - *Jacob as patriarch makes the decision "NO!!"*

Remarkable Picture of Jesus

Prince of all the land

Somewhat hard to Perceive

His Word given needing an interpreter (Holy Spirit)

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