

The Return Trip

Genesis Chapter 43

- Gen 43:1 **1) A Family Argument** vs 1-14
Now the famine was severe in the land.
- Gen 43:2 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."
- *Simeon is waiting and these guys did not return*
 - *Famine continues and they are running out of grain again.*
 - *The argument begins with a Command backed by patriarchal authority. This command has a little problem in that it is tied to an earlier discussion and decision but the issues from the earlier discussion have not been resolved but have been ignored. Jacob says go again to Egypt.*
- Gen 43:3 Judah spoke to him, however, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"
- *Judah reminds dad that the issue isn't going but taking Benjamin*
- Gen 43:4 "If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.
- Gen 43:5 "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.' "
- *The counter offer backed by refusal. Send Benjamin or we will not go!*
- Gen 43:6 Then Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly by telling the man whether you still had {another} brother?"
- *Classic in most every argument. Ad Hoc Attack the person not the issue. Why didn't you lie, connive, cheat? Don't you know it is in you from me Grandpa and your great granddad?*
- Gen 43:7 But they said, "The man questioned particularly 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?'"
- *How were we to know!!! We thought the questions were innocent enough. But then he wanted to see our brother.*
- Gen 43:8 Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the lad with me and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones.
- Gen 43:9 "I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him {back} to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame before you forever.
- Gen 43:10 "For if we had not delayed, surely by now we could have returned twice."
- *The Proposal - From Judah Let me go I will be surety I will be responsible If I fail I will bear the blame FOREVER!*
 - *Moses, Paul - MOSES Ex 32:32-33 "Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book."*
 - *- PAUL Romans 9:3 "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:"*
 - *Wonderful compassion but a foolish request. God told Moses He who sins will be blotted out.*
 - *We see a change taking place in Judah (see 37:26-27 verses 43:8-9)*
- Gen 43:11 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 present, a little balm and a little honey, aromatic gum and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.
- *Israel is still Jacob. He is always working an angle.*
 - *Best Products of the land probably were not comparable to that which Egypt possessed.*
- Gen 43:12 "Take double {the} money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was

returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was a mistake.

Gen 43:13

"Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man;

Gen 43:14

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 children, I am bereaved."

- *Jacob whines May God bless you but as for me If I'm bereaved I'm bereaved.*

Gen 43:15

2) A Luncheon Appointment vs 15-34

So the men took this present, and they took double {the} money in their hand, and Benjamin; then they arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

Gen 43:16

When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to his house steward, "Bring the men into the house, and slay an animal and make ready; for the men are to dine with me at noon."

Gen 43:17

So the man did as Joseph said, and brought the men to Joseph's house.

- *The brothers came to Egypt and Joseph saw them before they saw him and he tells his steward to prepare a lunch feast for him and these Hebrews.*

Gen 43:18

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, that he may seek occasion against us and fall upon us, and take us for slaves with our donkeys."

- *THE MEN WERE AFRAID because they feel conviction.*
- *Shakespeare said "Suspicion haunts the guilty mind."*

Gen 43:19

So they came near to Joseph's house steward, and spoke to him at the entrance of the house,

- *The interaction in the next 5 verses is between the brothers and Joseph's steward.*
- *What happens to the pagan polytheist when he works for Joseph for 7 years? Read on.*

Gen 43:20

and said, "Oh, my lord, we indeed came down the first time to buy food,

Gen 43:21

and it came about when we came to the lodging place, that we opened our sacks, and behold, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full. So we have brought it back in our hand.

Gen 43:22

"We have also brought down other money in our hand to buy food; we do not know who put our money in our sacks."

Gen 43:23

He said, "Be at ease, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

- *BE AT EASE = "Shalom"*
- *He speaks of Jehovah, and to trust the God of your Father. Was he converted in Joseph's House?*
- *Simeon was restored to them*
 - *Nothing is say of his greeting*
 - *What took you so long?*
 - *Praise God!!!*

Gen 43:24

Then the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys fodder.

Gen 43:25

So they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon; for they had heard that they were to eat a meal there.

Gen 43:26

When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present which was in their hand and bowed to the ground before him.

Gen 43:27

Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, "Is your old father well, of whom you

spoke? Is he still alive?"

Gen 43:28 They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." They bowed down in homage.

- *Still asking about his father*

Gen 43:29 As he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, he said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son."

- *This is the first time he has seen Benjamin in 20 - 23 years. Benjamin was just 3 when Joseph was sold into slavery. I'm sure he wasn't so recognizable.*

Gen 43:30 Joseph hurried {out} for he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he sought {a place} to weep; and he entered his chamber and wept there.

- *Joseph is very moved over this incredible opportunity.*
- *Psalm 56:8 "Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: [are they] not in thy book?" God records and cares for our every tear.*

Gen 43:31 Then he washed his face and came out; and he controlled himself and said, "Serve the meal."

Gen 43:32 So they served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat bread with the Hebrews, for that is loathsome to the Egyptians.

- *It was unclean for Egyptians to eat with the Hebrews. That is why Joseph ate away from his brothers and away from the Egyptian house servants.*

Gen 43:33 Now they were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, and the men looked at one another in astonishment.

- *40,000,000 to 1 are the odds to set the seating chart for 11 brothers and ranking them in order of their birth. This was astonishing.*

Gen 43:34 He took portions to them from his own table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

- *In a number of cultures it is honoring to give an individual a greater portion. Spartans was 2x, Cretans was 4x, Egyptian was 5x, and in the Routh's house it is simply the greater portion.*

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