



GENESIS

A Feast at Joseph's Palace **Genesis 43:15-34**

1. Despite his brothers' past betrayal, Joseph chooses the path of reconciliation. This begins with grace and forgiveness. Do you pursue grace and forgiveness? Is your life modeled by tension or a pursuit of reconciliation? Where do you keep records of being wronged? Where do you need to surrender bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander?
Ephesians 4:30-32, 1 Corinthians 13:5
2. The brothers approached with humility, bowing down and offering gifts. This was crucial in mending their relationship. Humility opens the doors to reconciliation. The opposite of humility is pride, and pride destroys relationships. In light of all this, do you approach reconciliation with humility? What areas do you need to surrender in order to humbly seek reconciliation?
Philippians 2:5-8; Proverbs 22:4
3. The brothers' remorse for their past actions is evident in their interactions with Joseph. It is also evident in how they treat their brother Benjamin, revealing their changed hearts and commitment to doing what is right. Repentance is a key step in restoring relationships and aligning ourselves with God's will. Thinking about reconciliation with others in your life, where do you need to repent and take responsibility for your part in the conflict?
1 John 1:9; Proverbs 11:3
4. Where do you need reconciliation? With God? With others?
2 Corinthians 5:19-21

¹⁵So the men packed Jacob's gifts and double the money and headed off with Benjamin. They finally arrived in Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph. ¹⁶When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the manager of his household, "These men will eat with me this noon. Take them inside the palace. Then go slaughter an animal, and prepare a big feast."

¹⁷So the man did as Joseph told him and took them into Joseph's palace.

¹⁸The brothers were terrified when they saw that they were being taken into Joseph's house. "It's because of the money someone put in our sacks last time we were here," they said. "He plans to pretend that we stole it. Then he will seize us, make us slaves, and take our donkeys."

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¹⁹The brothers approached the manager of Joseph's household and spoke to him at the entrance to the palace. ²⁰"Sir," they said, "we came to Egypt once before to buy food. ²¹But as we were returning home, we stopped for the night and opened our sacks. Then we discovered that each man's money—the exact amount paid—was in the top of his sack! Here it is; we have brought it back with us. ²²We also have additional money to buy more food. We have no idea who put our money in our sacks."

²³"Relax. Don't be afraid," the household manager told them. "Your God, the God of your father, must have put this treasure into your sacks. I know I received your payment." Then he released Simeon and brought him out to them.

²⁴The manager then led the men into Joseph's palace. He gave them water to wash their feet and provided food for their donkeys. ²⁵They were told they would be eating there, so they prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon.

²⁶When Joseph came home, they gave him the gifts they had brought him, then bowed low to the ground before him. ²⁷After greeting them, he asked, "How is your father, the old man you spoke about? Is he still alive?" ²⁸"Yes," they replied. "Our father, your servant, is alive and well." And they bowed low again.

²⁹Then Joseph looked at his brother Benjamin, the son of his own mother. "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" Joseph asked. "May God be gracious to you, my son." ³⁰Then Joseph hurried from the room because he was overcome with emotion for his brother. He went into his private room, where he broke down and wept. ³¹After washing his face, he came back out, keeping himself under control. Then he ordered, "Bring out the food!"

³²The waiters served Joseph at his own table, and his brothers were served at a separate table. The Egyptians who ate with Joseph sat at their own table, because Egyptians despise Hebrews and refuse to eat with them. ³³Joseph told each of his brothers where to sit, and to their amazement, he seated them according to age, from oldest to youngest. ³⁴And Joseph filled their plates with food from his own table, giving Benjamin five times as much as he gave the others. So they feasted and drank freely with him.