

Introduction (42:1-5)

- The famine comes to the promised land.
- Word of Joseph's success in Egypt has spread throughout the world.
- There appears to still be tension between Jacob and his other sons.
- Jacob seems suspicious that something has happened to Joseph.

Reunited (42:6-20)

- They bow down to Joseph exactly how he dreamed.
- They do not recognize Joseph.
- They claim to be honest men.
- Joseph is not pretending to punish them, he could easily punish them justly in his own power without a charade.
- The purpose of the tests is to see whether or not they have changed.
- The question is whether or not they are truly honest men. Or if they have changed and reformed or not.
- Will they leave one of their brother's trapped in the pit again?
- They are jailed for three days (foreshadows Christ and similar to Joseph in the pit).
- They receive much more than 20 pieces for this brother.
- They are threatened with death if they are untruthful.

Response (42:21-28)

- They do what Joseph and submit to his request/rules.
- First they acknowledge that they are guilty and are getting what they deserve.
- Reuben acknowledges that justice and a reckoning has come for how they treated their brother.
- Joseph knows that they are sorry, but does not know if they have changed.
- Reconciliation requires repentance and change not just regret.
- Simon the oldest is kept back
- Their money is returned with extra to see what they will do.
- They cry out to God acknowledging God is behind this, but they do not know to what end.

Return to Jacob (42:29-38)

- They find the money and are dismayed.
- They acknowledge that God is the one who has done this to them.
- They don't tell their father everything, but this time for good instead of deception.
- Reuben is willing to give up two sons, echoing the sacrifice of Abraham.
- Jacob appears to believe they are responsible for what happened to Joseph.
- He is suspicious that they have sold another brother into slavery.
- They do not grumble at Benjamin's favoritism as they did with Joseph.

Return to Egypt (43:1-15)

- They appear to have wanted to return already, but Jacob refused to let them go.
- They only go now when the food is running out and they have little choice.
- They return with a present.
- They return what money was “stolen” along with double the amount for interest.
- This is the actions of changed honorable men.

The Feast (43:16-34)

- They tell the truth and are willingly going even if it is to punishment.
- Joseph professes faith and trust in their God.
- The bow and prostrate themselves above and beyond on the ground in front of Joseph.
- The Egyptians will not eat with Hebrews, even though Joseph is one of them.
- There is no hint of jealousy towards Benjamin’s favorable treatment.
- Joseph blesses Benjamin to see how they will act when the youngest is honored and favored about others.

Application

- Forgiveness and reconciliation are not the same thing. Reconciliation requires two willing parties.
- The brothers are being tested to see if they are truthful.
- They have been changed and transformed over the years.
- Full reconciliation and trust between the brothers cannot happen yet because they need to prove themselves.

Gospel

- This is not how Christ acts towards us.
- Jesus does not test us to be sure that we are worthy of reconciliation with God.
- Jesus washes the feet of His disciples and serves them.