

Gen42:1 When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"

42:2 And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."

42:3 So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.

42:4 But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him."

42:5 And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

42:6 Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth.

42:7 Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

42:8 So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

42:9 Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"

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

42:11 "We are all one man's sons; we are honest men; your servants are not spies."

42:12 But he said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

42:13 And they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no more."

42:14 But Joseph said to them, "It is as I spoke to you, saying, 'You are spies!'

42:15 "In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

42:16 "Send one of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!"

42:17 So he put them all together in prison three days.

42:18 Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God:

42:19 "If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses.

42:20 "And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

42:21 Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress

has come upon us."

42:22 And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."

42:23 But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter.

42:24 And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

42:25 Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them.

42:26 So they loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there.

42:27 But as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack.

42:28 So he said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, and there it is, in my sack!" Then their hearts failed them and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?"

42:29 Then they went to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying:

42:30 "The man who is lord of the land spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.

42:31 "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.

42:32 'We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is with our father this day in the land of Canaan.'

42:33 "Then the man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone.

42:34 'And bring your youngest brother to me; so I shall know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. I will grant your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.' "

42:35 Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.

42:36 And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

42:37 Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."

42:38 But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring

down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."

[from today's sermon].

We are reading the story of Joseph. We are reading the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Joseph's brothers came and prostrated themselves on the ground and worshipped him.

We are simply amazed at the enormity of what God is doing. Here is the third chapter of Ecclesiastes.

For everything under heaven there is a season, and a time for every work. ...For everything God does is in its season, and in its beauty. God has also given the human heart the thought of eternity. And yet man cannot discern the work of God from beginning to end."

For Joseph, it was the consummation of God's work, made known to him after a long, long time. Likewise, God did not leave the sins of Joseph's brothers untouched.

"They said to each other, 'Surely we have sinned against our brother. And when he had implored, we saw the anguish of his heart, but we did not heed. So we meet with this suffering. We fear that we must reap the consequences for all our sins. How can we clean up all our sins? Joseph reigns before his brothers like a king, and they bow down before him. Joseph had the authority to give rewards. How does God the Heavenly Father, who is the absolute authority, reward us?'

Good morning everyone.

It has been raining since yesterday.

It is the time of three cold and four warm days, and the temperature varies widely, so please take care of yourselves.

Now, the story of Joseph has progressed quite a bit.

Today, we finally come to the scene of the meeting between Joseph and his brothers.

42:1 When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at each other?

42:2 And he said, "It is said that there is grain in Egypt; go down there and buy grain for us from there. Then we will live and not die.

42:3 So Joseph's ten brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain.

42:4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers. 42:4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for fear that he would meet with disaster.

42:5 So the children of Israel came with the people to buy grain. 42:5 And the sons of Israel came with the people to buy grain, because there was a famine in the land of Canaan.

42:6 And Joseph was governor of the land, and he sold grain to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and prostrated themselves on the ground and worshipped him.

Joseph was 17 years old when he was with his father in Canaan, 30 years old when he went before the king of Egypt, and 7 years after a good harvest, a bad harvest, so if we add up the years, it is more than 20 years since the evil deeds of his brothers.

For everything under heaven there is a season, and a time for every work. ...For everything God does is in its season, and in its beauty. God has also given man the thought of eternity in his heart. And yet man cannot discern the work of God from beginning to end."

Just as it says in the book of Ecclesiastes. How could the brothers have imagined that they would meet Joseph in this way? They plunged Joseph into the pit and others snatched him up and sold him to Egypt, so we know that the brothers had no way of knowing. But now, 20 years later, Joseph's dream has become a reality.

We are reminded of God's far-reaching work. It is impossible for us to know or move 20 years in the future. But God is the One who sees, and He sees all things and moves all things through His mighty acts. What a blessing it is to be included in the guidance of the hand of such a One.

I bowed down to the ground and worshipped him. The literal translation says that they prostrated themselves to Him and put both nostrils to the ground. Here we have a picture of complete and absolute submission.

Being second in rank after Pharaoh, king of Egypt, Joseph had absolute authority and power. His brothers did not recognize him, but for Joseph, his brothers were impossible to forget. Was this an opportunity for retribution?

42:7 When Joseph saw his brothers, he knew it, but he made as though he were a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. He said to them, "Where did you come from? They answered, "We have come from the land of Canaan to buy food.

42:8 Joseph knew them to be his brothers, but they did not know him.

42:9 Joseph remembered a dream he once had about them, and said to them, "You are turners, and have come to spy out this country.

Was this hardship, this hard hitting, an act of anger in Yosef's heart? No, Joseph wanted to be sure.

42:10 They answered Joseph, "No, my Lord, the servants have come only to buy food.

42:11 We are all sons of one man, and we are all true. The servants are not spoilers.

42:12 Joseph said to them, "No, you have come to spy out the nations.

42:13 They said, "The servants are twelve brothers, sons of one man in the land of Canaan. The youngest brother is now with his father, but the other one is gone.

42:14 Joseph said to them, "As I have said, you are turners; you have turned to me, and I have turned to you, and you have turned to me, and I have turned to you.

42:15 Let me test you thus. I swear it by the life of Pharaoh. 42:15 I swear by the life of Pharaoh, that if his youngest brother does not come here, you will not leave; and if his youngest brother does not come here, you will not leave.

42:16 Send one of you to bring him to me. I will hold you together until then, and I will test your words to see if you are sincere. I swear it by the life of Pharaoh. Ye are indeed turners.

42:17 Joseph put them all together in confinement for three days.

Is his brother, born of the same mother, safe? Is he not being bullied by the same scorn and torment as himself? I miss him and want to see my blood brother. And he wanted to make sure he was safe. That must have been his heart. He must have also wanted to encourage his brothers to reflect on what they had done. I wonder if they felt remorse for their sins at times after what they did, leaving him to die. I wonder if they felt sorry for what they had done. I think Joseph would have wanted to know such things.

42:18 On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will be saved. I fear God, for I am the LORD your God.

42:19 If you are truthful, leave one of your brothers in the prison where you are, and you go and bring grain to relieve the hunger of your family.

42:20 And bring your youngest brother to me. Then you will know that your words are true and you will escape death. And they did so.

42:21 And they said to each other, "Indeed, we are guilty of the matter of our brother. And when he was earnest in his supplication, we did not heed, seeing the affliction of his heart. So we meet with this affliction.

42:22 Reuben answered and said to them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against this child? Nevertheless, you did not listen. So you will pay for his blood.

42:23 They did not know that Joseph was listening. For there was an interpreter between

them.

42:24 And Joseph went away and wept with them, and returned and talked with them, and seized one of them, Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.

He said, “Surely we are guilty of the matter of our brother. And when he had implored, we did not heed, seeing the anguish of his heart. So we meet with this affliction.”

42:22 Reuben answered and said to them, “Did I not tell you not to sin against this child? Nevertheless, you did not listen. So you will pay for his blood.

They talked and talked about these things.

It has been more than 20 years, and it was long ago, but the harsh reality is presented here that one will surely reap the consequences one day for sinning.

Romans 6:23 For the wages that sin pays is death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived, for God is not to be mocked. For what a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall reap destruction from the flesh: but he that soweth to the spirit shall reap eternal life from the spirit.

6:9 Let us not grow weary in doing good. For if we do it tirelessly, we will reap when the time comes.

6:10 Let us therefore do good to whomsoever we have occasion, and especially to our fellow believers.

Joseph is now before his brothers as an absolute authority. With a single command from him, he could have prevented his brothers from ever leaving the prison again. The brothers who had committed the crime of murder were the ones who could not complain even if he did so. Now what would Joseph do to them?

42:24 Joseph went away from them and wept, and returned and talked with them, and seized one of them, Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.

He wept. It seems that the elder brother blames his brothers for having gone so far when he should have quit, and the brothers are just dazed, wondering if this is all their fault, and do

not seem to be shedding public tears in intense repentance. It does not seem that way, but when Joseph saw it, he wept. Were they tears of anger, tears of regret? No, I don't think so. In the same way, we have committed many sins and misunderstandings, and have done things that have angered God. The time of judgment will eventually come, and we will realize that we have not pointed out the things that we did and did not do. But at such times, the story of Joseph reveals how God, who is the absolute authority, is looking at us.

42:24 And Joseph went away and wept with them, and returned and talked with them, and seized one of them, Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.

42:25 And Joseph commanded the men to fill their sacks with grain, and to return each man's silver to his sack, and to give him food on the road. Joseph did this to them.

42:26 And they left there with the grain on their asses.

42:27 And one of them opened his sack at the inn to give the asses their sheaves, and found his silver in the mouth of the sack.

42:28 And he said to his brethren, "I have returned my silver. And behold, it is in the bag. And they were greatly astonished, and trembled one from another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"

42:29 And they returned to Jacob their father, who was in the land of Canaan, and told him all that had happened to them,

42:30 "The king of that country speaks to us wildly, saying that he is a turner who covets the country.

42:31 We answered him, "We are the truthful ones, not the spoilers.

42:32 We are twelve brothers, sons of the same father. One is gone, and the youngest brother is now with his father in the land of Canaan.

42:33 And he, the sovereign of the land, said to us, "Thus will I know you to be true. Leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain with you, and go and relieve the hunger of your family.

42:34 And bring your youngest brother to me. Then I will return your brother to you, knowing that you are not a turner but a truthful one, and I will make you deal with him in this land."

42:35 And when they took out their sacks, they saw in each sack a package of gold, and both they and their father were afraid when they saw the package of gold.

42:36 And Jacob their father said to them, "You have caused me to lose my son. Joseph is gone, and Simeon is gone. Now I will take away Benjamin also. All this will come upon me.

42:37 Reuben said to his father, "If I do not bring him back to you, kill my two sons. Only leave him in my hands. I will surely bring him back to you.

42:38 Jacob said, "My son shall not go down with you. For his brother is dead, and he alone remains. If he meets with disaster on your way, you will send him down to the shadow of death in sorrow.

Joseph did not receive a price for the grain, indicating that his love for his family has not changed in the slightest. It is not just that Joseph gave it to his father. He offered a lot of grain without receiving any price for it. I believe that this was his compassion for his wicked brothers as well.

This is where I feel God's redemption through Jesus. Through the substitutionary death of Jesus, without price, each one of us is forgiven of our sins, freed from the burden of sin, and desiring to live eternally, which is the will of God, the absolute power of this world, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The words of Ruppen, that he would take Benjamin home even in place of his own son, are also very moving. What is valuable among us at all times is the love that wants to make you happy even if it changes you. The original of that love is God. We, too, want to be forgiven and given to, and in so doing, to be forgivers and givers ourselves.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship.

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death," which reminds us of the abomination of sin. The dream of 20 years ago that Joseph's brothers' sins against him would be brought to light and his brothers would bow down to him was realized on this day without error to God. The brothers' lives seemed to be in the wind before an angry authority. The same is true for us before God. But the Lord has redeemed us. Please lead all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our communities. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.