

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS CONFRONTING THE PAST – Part 2

Genesis 42:29-38

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Sometimes it's difficult to know *what* is happening to us or *why*. But we must not *react* to our circumstances; instead *respond* by placing your faith in God.

7. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS DISCLOSURE - vv. 29-34

They had to make sure their story, although alarming, must be palatable to Jacob. They withheld certain facts to the story and added certain facts. *Compare v. 19 & v.24 with v.33. Then compare v. 20 with v. 34b.* "Trade in the land" meant they can take advantage of everything in addition to grain.

8. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS DISCOVERY – v. 35

Dismayed is actually Ya-THDlay - u-iirau = disheartened with terror. A blend of discouragement and fear! *Genesis 3:10-11.* Jacob and his 9 sons knew at this moment they were deep trouble with "The Man!"

9. JOSEPH'S FATHER'S DEPRESSION – vv. 36-38

a) Jacob's Accusation - v. - 36 Jacob sees the unfolding of events from a selfish standpoint. "All these things are against me!" Jacob shows that he has allowed the facts in front of him, and the fear that's inside of him, to snuff out his faith and trust in the promises God made to him time and time again. Jacob's life was in God's hand.

Parents, (Patriarchs and Matriarchs), take an honest look at the dynamics of your family relationships. Instead of asking why you get treated a certain way, why not ask if you have contributed to the issue in some ways.

b) Reuben's Recommendation – v. 37 Reuben made a hasty decision!

Be careful about making hasty and rash decisions. *Mark 6:21-24; Proverbs 21:5; 29:20; Ecclesiastes 5:2; James 1:19* Use the HHALT method!

Hurt Hungry Angry Lonely Tired

c) Jacob's Preservation – v. 38

- **Jacob Refused Furiously - v. 38a - He didn't care what the result would be!**
- **He Rehashed Favoritism – v. 38b He reminds them of his favorite son Joseph allegedly being dead, then revealed that Benjamin was his favorite!**
- **He Resolved Faint-Heartedness – v. 38c Genesis 37:35** if he let them take Benjamin back the sorrow will kill him!

We are not victims of our circumstances nor are we victims of other people. All the things that happen to us are produced by God or permitted by God. *Philippians 2:13*