

The  
Anguish of His  
Soul

**Genesis 42:15 – 43:15**



~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is still with Joseph at the impromptu Jacob family reunion in Egypt with his brothers who had decided against murdering him so they could sell him into slavery for a profit instead so long ago. The brothers have no idea this is Joseph they are dealing with - but Joseph knows who they are. Joseph is being rather rough with them; but not because he wanted revenge. No, he wanted to get information; and this is the way Joseph does it - and it gives him total control: he accuses them of being spies. In our last report they had told Joseph that their father and one brother had been left behind in Canaan. Of course, they think Joseph is dead, so they say they have one brother that "is not." Well, Joseph is trying to establish contact with his only real brother, Benjamin, because all these are really just half-brothers – and they all have severe and deep problems – such as being cold-blooded killers - and there is, of course, the background between them and Joseph....

**XLII**

***15 Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither.***

***16 Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies.***

***17 And he put them all together into detention three days.***

***18 And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:***

~ Suddenly things go from very bad to horrible for the brothers. However, if anything should have given them any idea this was Joseph – this is it; but they don't have an inkling of a clue. If anything should have given them hope that they would be treated fairly and justly it is because Joseph says, "...I fear God." When we considered the life of Abraham we met Melchizedek. He was the High Priest in that day. Other people throughout the world knew the way to God at that time. Well, Joseph never misses an opportunity to give a testimony for God. Joseph is now going to give God the full glory as the one Who is directing his life....

***19 If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses:***

***20 But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.***

~ Let's understand that a few of these brothers are likely as old as fifty at this time. They find themselves in a real predicament here. They are in complete involuntary submission to one who fears God, but they are still afraid - because they have no idea what he's going to do. Joseph tells them to go get their brother or don't come back. Joseph is as clever as Jacob was - and even more so. These brothers do not realize that their brother, whom they left for dead, is overhearing their confession. Because Joseph said he was one who feared the Lord they now feel that the vengeance of God has come over them for what they did; and they would be exactly correct. From here, these brothers seem genuinely repentant – and, candidly, I think they are....

***21 And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.***

***22 And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? Therefore, behold, also his blood is required.***

***23 And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.***

~ I think Joseph probably wanted to throw his arms around them and tell them all about what had happened and forgive them and tell them he loved them and all of that; but he dared not, because then he would have never seen Benjamin again. Joseph also was very wise to maintain control of his methods in the heat of so many wild emotions. See, when we are dealing with a world that will just as soon sell you into slavery you'll do well to be wise as a serpent; Joseph here is as harmless as a dove, too. Joseph is going to give out some real tests. He couldn't keep himself from crying and he has to turn aside and compose himself to continue. He ties Simeon up right in front of the brothers to give them a dose of the reality of what's happening. This is an emotionally charged situation to be sure. So, they leave Simeon and head home. There is a very definite reason they left Simeon and not one of the other ten – although I don't purport to know what that reason was. Interestingly, though, and probably sadly, I don't think it would have mattered which one stayed, according to Jacob....

***24 And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.***

***25 Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them.***

***26 And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence.***

***27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth.***

***28 And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us?***

~ I think most Christians today would have found this to be a great thing that happened. It wasn't a great thing for these men, friends. They already felt like they were in trouble with the food czar down in Egypt; should they have turned and gone back to pay? What would you have done? These brothers aren't taking any chances – they head home! ~

***29 And they came unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying,***

***30 The man, who is the lord of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.***

***31 And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies:***

***32 We be twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.***

***33 And the man, the lord of the country, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye are true men; leave one of your brethren here with me, and take food for the famine of your households, and be gone:***

***34 And bring your youngest brother unto me: then shall I know that ye are no spies, but that ye are true men: so will I deliver you your brother, and ye shall traffick in the land.***

***35 And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.***

***36 And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me.***

~ This is not the same Jacob we grew up with; he's not walking so proud and he's not talking so loudly anymore. Jacob is very pessimistic as he says, 'all these things are against me.' Joseph would never have said this; but Paul will say it in a different way. All things work together for good to them

that love God. We are confident that He that hath begun a good work will perform it until the day of the Lord Jesus Christ. You might want to turn all of this over in your mind a few times and see what you come up with. If you believe that and understand it, then it is extremely difficult to accept in our lives; and, if it isn't, it will be. Tragically, these truths are woefully misused and distorted today and are responsible for more shipwrecked faiths than anything else....

***37 And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again.***

***38 And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.***

~ Jacob is prepared to starve rather than lose Benjamin. That's weird. Jacob's entire reason for being is totally wrapped up in the life of Benjamin. That's also very weird. Joseph had been Jacob's favorite, the firstborn of his lovely Rachel; but that's all gone now – nothing but a devastating heartbreak for Jacob to look back on. Be not deceived, my beloved, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man shall sow, that shall he also reap. Jacob is reaping very, very bad things now. If you think Jacob was interested in taking a chance on losing another son I think you're entirely mistaken. I think most Christians would have done this same thing, too. If anything had happened to Benjamin, Jacob WOULD have died from acute traumatic grief....

## **XLIII**

***1 And the famine was sore in the land.***

~ Remember, Simeon is chained to the wall down there in the prison. I imagine Joseph put him in the EXACT same shackles he was in before. Jacob says he doesn't care if Simeon dies in prison – Benjamin isn't going. So, we come to the most dramatic section in Genesis. Frankly, we are going to leave this book with a big bang theory of our own – but we'll have to save

that for later! There really is not much more of a dramatic and moving scene than the appearance of Benjamin before Joseph. If the famine had not waxed sore in the land then Simeon spends his life down there in prison in Egypt and we would have an entirely different story. We see they aren't compelled here to do anything until they are forced to move. This is a great family. Do any of you dear readers know anything about being the member of a family like this? ~

***2 And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food.***

***3 And Judah spake unto him, saying, The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.***

***4 If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food:***

***5 But if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down: for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.***

~ Ah, Judah! Leave it to Judah to be so blunt with pops. 'The man' is Joseph their brother but they don't know that! This is cut and dry: they tell Jacob they either take Benjamin with them or they do not go back to Egypt. Old man Jacob is really frustrated here as he lashes out at the sons. Jacob asks why in the world they would have ever told this man in Egypt about the brothers; so, this is their fault. See, most people today want to blame all of their problems on other people; they should have kept their mouth shut according to Jacob....

***6 And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother?***

***7 And they said, The man asked us straitly of our state, and of our kindred, saying, Is your father yet alive? Have ye another brother? and we told him according to the tenor of these words: could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down ?***

**8 And Judah said unto Israel his father, Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go; that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones.**

**9 I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever:**

~ I am absolutely positive it was no reassurance for Jacob to hear Judah make these promises. I doubt Jacob trusted Judah in any way, shape or form. You and I have a surety today, though, friends – the Lord Jesus Christ - and He will come to us through the line of Judah! Unfortunately, Jacob has no choice but to let it all go now. As far as I can tell, this is the place in Jacob's life when he really begins trusting the Lord. He's still frustrated and defeated – but he's going to put it all in God's hands now. Naturally, Judah can't keep his mouth shut and says....

**10 For except we had lingered; surely now we had returned this second time.**

**11 And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds:**

~ It sure doesn't sound like much of a famine here, does it? What they lacked was grain to make bread; and they lacked corn – a staple, even today. The Word of God is the old corn, friends. Bible study isn't glitzy, gimmicky and glamorous. It's monotonous and never changes. Teaching the Bible sure isn't glamorous, either – although it IS thrilling! – This is the old corn I serve in our Spiritual Safari, my beloved....

**12 And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight:**

***13 Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man:***

***14 And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.***

***15 And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph ~***

