

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH (PART THREE)

“Joseph was the governor over the land” – Genesis 42:6

HOW THINGS HAD CHANGED

Joseph came to Egypt as a frightened seventeen-year-old slave (Genesis 37:2). At age thirty, he was running Egypt, implementing the plan God gave that would save multitudes during a lengthy famine (Genesis 41:46-49, 53-57). He had a wife and two sons (Genesis 41:50). The first was Manasseh, which means God had made me forget all my toil and my father's house (Genesis 41:51). The second was Ephraim, which means God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction (Genesis 41:52). God had turned his life around. His focus was on the present and the future. The past was in the past.

HIS FAMILY'S FORTUNES HAD TURNED

It wasn't going as well for the family he tried to push out of his mind. The famine was severe in Canaan and they looked to Egypt for sustenance (Genesis 42:1-2).

AN EMOTIONAL ENCOUNTER

His ten brothers came to Egypt looking for food without knowing the heights Joseph had ascended to. When they went to buy food, they bowed down to the brother they did not recognize but who recognized them instantly (Genesis 42:3-6). He withheld his identity and questioned them hostility (Genesis 42:7). As he accused them of spying and learned about the state of his brother Benjamin and his father, he was flooded with long-repressed memories of his painful past and what the men who bowed before him had done to him (Genesis 42:7-14). He angrily locked them up for three days (Genesis 42:16-17). But Joseph wasn't the only one reliving the past. His brothers discussed how their treatment of Joseph had brought them to this point as Joseph listened unbeknown to them (Genesis 42:21-23). It was then that his emotions broke. He sent all but Simeon home to ensure they would bring him the brother who had done him no harm (Genesis 42:24-28).

A SPECIAL DAY AND A SPECIAL TRUTH

After Jacob's initial refusal to let Benjamin go to Egypt, Joseph saw Benjamin. He prepared a feast for his terrified brothers in his house (Genesis 43:16-18). Joseph asked of his father (Genesis 43:27). As Joseph looked at his younger brother, he had to flee the room to hide his feelings (Genesis 43:29-30). It would take a little more time and emotional release, but soon Joseph could not refrain, and he revealed himself to his shocked family (Genesis 45:1-4). He could do that because he had gotten beyond the pain to the truth. The truth was they should not grieve that they had sold him into slavery because it was God who sent him to preserve Abraham's seed (Genesis 45:5). The seed the Savior would come through. Press through the pain, Child of God. See God's truth in your struggle. Peace lies there.