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Joseph – the Lord was always with him!

Genesis Chapter 37

I am going to talk about my favourite story in the bible, Joseph and the coat of many colours...

It really spends a lot of time in the scriptures talking about Joseph, which is a rarity. You look at the scriptures and they might have a verse or two on a certain person, maybe a chapter here or couple of chapters there, but Joseph really takes up a lot of space in the book of Genesis.

He's an important guy and I am sure we can glean some examples from his life to share for ourselves and also he is a type of Jesus Christ.

A forerunner of what the Lord himself had to endure...

And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

These are the generations of Jacob, Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren: and the lad was with the sons of Bil'-hah, and with the sons of Zil'-pah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

He's the classic in your family - a snitch. He wasn't well liked for it.

He was what we call a 'goodie goodie'. He was **only seventeen years old** and the second youngest in the family.

To set the scene, Jacob had 12 sons and Joseph was the 11th and Joseph was the favourite...

The Lord is always with you.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

They didn't like him. He was the favourite in the family so he's getting rough treatment from the rest of his brothers. You can imagine it, most of us have got kids and most of us have grown up with brothers and sisters.

There's always a bit of drama. Imagine it with 12 times all the hassles... But the whole lot of them picked on Joseph.

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? Or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou has dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

What's interesting (and I'll just touch on this) in the book of Revelation - it talks about the sun, the moon and the stars and various situations occurring. It's talking about Israel. Here it is in the book of Genesis giving us the interpretation of the book of Revelation. Revelation is written in signs and symbols...

The Lord is always with you.

Here we see the interpretation – the sun, the moon and the stars is Israel in bible Prophecy. It's interpreted right here.... The rest of his brothers, the eleven stars were going to bow down to him.

The sun and the moon, his father and his mother were going to bow down to him. This is what he dreamed about. These symbols are talking about Israel.

And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in She'-chem.

And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in She'-chem? Come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him. Here am I.

And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of He'-bron, and he came to She'-chem.

And a certain man found him, and, behold he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.

And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Do'-than. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Do'-than.

Now I want to draw your attention to the similarities between the events that happened to Joseph with those events that happened to the Lord.

Joseph went to find his brethren and they were supposed to be feeding their flock at a certain place but they weren't.

They'd led the flock astray so to speak.

They were feeding them somewhere else.

They weren't where they were supposed to be.

When our Lord came on the scene, this is what he found in religion.

The priests, the scribes and the Pharisees were supposed to be looking after the flock and when he came, where were they?

The Lord is always with you.

They weren't where they were supposed to be.

They were leading the flock astray.

If the Lord came on the earth today, what would he find?

He'd find the flock being led astray all over the place. People aren't feeding the flock the way they should be fed. The Lord has given a command to feed the flock, do it this way, feed them in a certain place, so on and so forth.

These guys thought they knew better and decided to pack up camp and feed them somewhere else.

And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

Reminds us of the Lord doesn't it? The scribes and the Pharisees wanted to slay the Lord too – here he comes, let's get him. A lot of comparisons here in Genesis to the Lord's life.

And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

That word means the master of dreams. He was known as the master of dreams when he was 17 years old.

Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands: and said, Let us not kill him.

And Reuben said unto them. Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him: that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

He tried to stall so that he could save him.

The Lord is always with you.

And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

They weren't very kind. Put yourself in Joseph's place here. 17 years old and this is how his brothers are treating him.

They've stripped him out of his coat of many colours...

This reminds me of the Lord... The Lord was stripped and he was beaten, killed for our sins. The coat of many colours... I believe that the Lord died for many nations – every race upon the planet the Lord died for.

The Lord came unto his own and his own received him not.

This is what happened to Joseph!

They threw him into a pit. Downtown desert land – no water, no food. You can imagine the situation. You can imagine the fear he was going through in this pit.

Stripped of his coat, probably burnt to a crisp from the sun – no protection, no food and no water.

And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ish'-me-el-ites came from Gil'e-ad with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood.

Come, and let us sell him to the Ish'-me-el-ites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

Sounds like the Jews. We don't want blood on our hands, let's hand Jesus over to the Romans. Let them kill him. Same thing here – we don't want blood on our hands, let's sell him to the Ish'-me-el-ites. Somehow that makes them innocent even though they have betrayed their brother.

The Lord is always with you.

Then there passed by Mid'-i-an-ites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ish'-me-el-ites for twenty pieces of silver:

Again he was betrayed. There were 10 brothers, all conspiring to betray their brother for twenty pieces of silver and we know that the Lord was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.

...and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit: and he rent his clothes.

And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, wither shall I go?

And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood:

And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father: and said, This have we found; know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

And he knew it, and said It is my son's coat: an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

Now this story wouldn't have been too hard for their father to believe. Back in those days it wasn't as populated as it is now.

Beasts of the field were a major drama. It was a daily occurrence.

We have to watch the road nowadays, look to your left, look to your right. Well they had to look out for wild beasts. It was easy to be taken so their story was believable.

And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him: but he refused to be comforted; and he said. For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

The Lord is always with you.

And the Mid'-i-an-ites, sold him into Egypt unto Pot'-i-phar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

Joseph's 17 years old, taken by his brothers, treated really bad, sold into slavery into Egypt. His brothers go back and tell the story to their father. He's been taken, he's been killed.

Think of the betrayal, think of the evilness of his brothers and think if you were Joseph – would you be thinking nice thoughts about your brothers?

They've done all this and then they've gone back to their father and their father is mourning. The grief that he would have shown, the pain and the anguish he would have been showing and **they're** trying to comfort him.

To still not tell him the truth after everything he was going through was very very evil. The epitome of evil here manifest by these brothers.

Genesis Chapter 39

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt: and Pot'-i-phar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ish'-me-el-ites, which had brought him down thither.

And the Lord was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man: and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Now think about this – what if this happened to you?

The Lord was with Joseph. Now we go through things in life – oh what are you doing Lord, you've left me!

Here's Joseph – slapped around, stripped, no food, no water, left in a pit for goodness knows how many days, sold into slavery to Egypt, but the Lord was with Joseph.

Can't you tell by everything that was happening in his life that the Lord was with Joseph?

The Lord is always with you.

We have to remember the Lord is with us...

And the circumstances we find ourselves in, perhaps the Lord has us there for a reason.

And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake: and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

This guy cottoned on that there was something special about Joseph...

While ever I've got Joseph as the boss, I'm getting money and I'm prosperous...

That happens in our life. Wherever we go, things happen. Not too many unemployed in the Lord. The Lord has his blessing upon us.

He blesses the places we go. Here it is that everything Joseph put his hand to the Lord blessed.

And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

But he refused, and said unto his master's wife. Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand.

There is none greater in this house than I: neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

The Lord is always with you.

Not only was he going to betray his master's trust in him, he would have also been sinning against God.

And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

Now I want to tie this into the New Testament.

It says to **flee fornication**... Joseph fled fornication.

Joseph literally ran out of his coat to avoid fornication...

You and I should do the same. Flee fornication!

He didn't stick around he bolted... He ran out of his coat to avoid fornication. He was caught in a terrible situation.

She was on his case from the word go and this particular day he went into the house when there was no one else around. That's a good example for you and I.

When we're dealing with someone of the opposite sex, no matter who it is, have somebody else around. Flee fornication. Be sensible in the way we conduct our life.

And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth.

That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us, he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

The Lord is always with you.

So she's twisted the story around.

*And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.
And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew
servant, which thou has brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:*

*And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment
with me, and fled out.*

*And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she
spake unto him saying. After this manner did thy servant to me: that his wrath
was kindled.*

*And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the
king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.*

But the Lord was with Joseph...

Hallelujah? The Lord was with Joseph. He's in prison now. He's had an exciting life up to now. It's all happening. He still was a righteous man. He still continued to follow the Lord.

There are no excuses for turning away from God and Joseph is a classic example. The Lord was with Joseph.

*and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the
prison.*

*And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that
were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.*

*The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand:
because the Lord was with him, and that which he did, the Lord made it to
prosper.*

Everything he did prospered. Everywhere Joseph goes he's made the ruler. Remember his dreams about sheaves bowing down to him and the stars of heaven bowing down to him.

He's progressed a long way – he's been sold into Egypt into a master's house and he's the ruler and now he's in jail but he's still the ruler.

The Lord is always with you.

Sure it's a progression down the scale a bit from a house to a jail, but the Lord's with him. Remember that... The Lord's with him.

For the sake of time we can't go into chapters 40 or 41 but it talks about him being in jail and these two guys that were serving the king had been thrown in jail and they had a dream.

They came to Joseph, the master of dreamers, the one who can interpret these things. And the first guy sits down and Joseph interprets his dream for him – in three days you're going to be restored to the King's office.

When you get there remember me. Mention me to the king... mention me to Pharaoh. No worries!

Then the second guy thought that was a good interpretation of that dream – I had a dream too. And he told Joseph his dream and Joseph told him in three days, you're going to die.

Careful what you ask for, sometimes you don't want to know the interpretation.

It came to pass in three days that the guy who Joseph said would be restored was restored and the guy that was told he was going to die, he died.

The story goes on and we read that two years later...

Two years later (now I don't know if that was two years after he was first thrown into jail or two years after he interpreted the dreams for these guys), but two years later he's still there in jail and Pharaoh has a dream.

Then this guy that was restored to Pharaoh's office – oh I remember this other fellow now. Two years later, I remember this guy and he'd probably be able to tell you the interpretation of this dream.

The Lord is always with you.

So they go and get Joseph. **By this stage he's 30 years old.**

Sold into Egypt at 17 years of age and now he's 30 – **13 years in slavery** in a land that he doesn't know, in a land that he doesn't belong, serving people, being thrown into jail – all these things happening to him **and the Lord's with him.**

The steadfastness of Joseph is incredible – he never took his eyes off the Lord.

Genesis 41 v 28

This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.

And for that the dream was doubled into Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years.

And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants.

*And Pharaoh said unto his servants, **Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?***

The Lord is always with you.

Look around folks. You won't find anyone that can match someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

Here it is. **He's Prime Minister of Egypt now.** Second only to Pharaoh. His word counts.

What if he'd chucked the towel in when he was thrown into jail?

What if he'd chucked the towel in when he was sold into bondage and said what's God doing for me?

No sir. He stuck firm to the Lord and now he was made Prime Minister – head honcho. Second only to Pharaoh in Egypt.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh took of his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had: and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. Even the Egyptians are bowing their knee to Joseph now.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.

You can't get any more powerful than that. Ruler of Egypt.

And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaph'nath-pa-a-ne'ah; and he gave him to wife As'e-nath the daughter of Poti-phe'rah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

The Lord is always with you.

And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.

And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.

And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which As'e-nath the daughter of Poti-phe'rah Priest of On bare unto him.

And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Ma-nas'-seh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.

And the name of the second he E'phra-im: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.

And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph what he saith to you, do.

And the famine was over all the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

Genesis 42 v 1

Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do you look one upon another?

And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.

The Lord is always with you.

It's pretty serious. They're starving. It's a desperate situation and he's sent his son's down to Egypt to get food.

And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt.

But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.

And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

And Joseph was the governor over all the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.

Remember Joseph's dream when we started?

We're not going to bow down to you...

We'll fix that... we'll sell him into slavery. We'll never bow down to him...

Well here they are with noses pointing to the ground.

They don't know who Joseph is. It's been about 20 years, maybe even 22 years and here's Joseph all done up, all the royal gear – he's Pharaoh's second honcho – he's the man!

He'd have been wearing an Egyptian crown, etc and he was speaking Egyptian – he wasn't speaking Hebrew to them.

They didn't have a clue who he was but he knew who they were.

And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them: and he said unto them Whence came ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.

And when he's saying this, he's speaking in Egyptian, he's really cranky and he's got an interpreter – where are you from?

The Lord is always with you.

And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.

And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them. Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.

And they said unto him Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come. We are all one man's sons; we are true men, they servants are no spies.

And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.

And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.

And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies:

Joseph is giving his brother's a hard time here.

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

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.

And he put them all together into ward three days.

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

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

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.

The Lord is always with you.

They're starting to feel guilty about what they did to Joseph. This bad stuff is coming onto us because of what we did to Joseph.

Imagine what Joseph was going through when they sold him into slavery. Don't do it, please, please – the anguish.

They didn't care. Now they're starting to feel sorry, not because of what they have done, but because they're having a hard time.

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.

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

Wouldn't that be interesting. Here they are, rattling off in Hebrew – oh we're in trouble for what we did to Joseph!

And he's there listening to them, understanding every word.

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.

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

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

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?

They're in hot water.

The Lord is always with you.

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

Simeon's in jail. We can't get food again unless we bring back Benjamin with us. Their father would have nothing of that. He'd already lost Joseph there was no way he was going to lose Benjamin. That was it – Simeon could stay in jail – real close knit family!

Genesis 42 v 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.

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.

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 which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

It just wasn't happening – Benjamin was staying put. But the famine got worse – they were out of food again. They had no choice but to go down to Egypt.

Genesis 43 v 1

And the famine was sore in the land.

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.

And they reminded him – we can't Dad, not unless you let Benjamin come with us. It's not going to happen. After a little conversation, they talk him into letting him go so he decides to let Benjamin go.

Genesis 43 v 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.

The Lord is always with you.

They're starving at the moment and there is no choice. It was a risk he had to take.

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.

And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready: for these men shall dine with me at noon.

And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

And the men were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen, and our asses.

And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house,

And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food:

And it came to pass, when we came to the inn, that we opened our sacks, and, behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money is full weight: and we have brought it again in our hand.

And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks.

And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them.

And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender.

And they made ready the present against Joseph came at noon; for they heard that they should eat bread there.

And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth.

Joseph's dream is being fulfilled over and over again.

The Lord is always with you.

And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?

Joseph was very patient – he would have been yearning to see his father.

And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance.

And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son.

And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there. And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread.

And they set for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

He's got his brothers there and he is eating separately from them – he's still pretending to be an Egyptian.

And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another.

He sat them down in their birth order. Oldest to youngest.

And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of their's. And they drank, and were merry with him.

The youngest got the most. The first shall be last and the last shall be first. Sometimes it is the newest, the youngest among us who are performing better and getting the major proportion of blessing.

The Lord is always with you.

Genesis 44 v 1

And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sacks' mouth.

And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money, And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses.

And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good?

Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth? Ye have done evil in so doing.

And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words. And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that they servants should do according to this thing:

Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks mouths we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold?

They're on their way home, they're accused of stealing and Benjamin is arrested and taken back to Egypt.

You can imagine the fear, this is daddy's last really precious son. He goes – big trouble. All the brothers go back with him and they plead with him, please take us instead. The tables are turned.

Genesis 44 v 14

And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.

They were at it again (Bowing before Joseph just as he had dreamed). Please don't take Benjamin – it's got to be a mistake!

The Lord is always with you.

Genesis 45 v 1

Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him: and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live?

And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

Hallelujah – what an attitude Joseph had. He didn't accuse them.

Be not grieved – **God did it for a purpose – to preserve life.**

Seven years of plenteousness and seven years of famine.

How many people would have died if Joseph didn't get sold into Egypt?

How many people would have died if Joseph had chucked in the towel?

What about you and I?

How many people will die if we throw in the towel before the Lord comes back? We've got a testimony to uphold right up until the Lord comes back.

We might just bring one person along, but what if they bring one person along and they bring one person along – how many people is that going to be before the Lord comes back?

Could be thousands.

What effect will it have if we throw in the towel? **God is with us.**

The Lord is always with you.

Joseph – everything he went through – God was with him.

We've got to have the same attitude and his forgiving nature – his understanding of it all.

It wasn't a good time being thrown into a pit with the sun beating down on you with no food and water and the only mercy he got was being sold into slavery and then he was sold somewhere else.

But that was his attitude – he was forgiving.

For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.

And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and the lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

And it goes on, they went up and they go him.

Genesis 45 v 25

And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father,

And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not.

And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived:

And Israel said, It is enough: Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.

The Lord is always with you.

You can imagine the happiness he would have felt. He knew what the other son's had done – the cat was out of the bag now!

Kids!

It doesn't matter – remember Joseph was telling his dream and Jacob rebuked him. Here it is being fulfilled.

They're established in Egypt now – they've got good land - they've survived the famine.

Jacob has now died.

Genesis 50 v 15

And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

They really feared him. He was ruler of all Egypt. He's told them he's forgiven them. He's told them it was God's will but now that their father is gone, they begin worrying.

And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,

So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we by thy servants.

They're at it again... (Still bowing down to him). They are willing now to be his servants.

What a turnaround.

The Lord is always with you.

And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

We read in the scriptures – how often shall our brother sin against us and we forgive him – seventy times seven a day.

There it is demonstrated before our eyes.

Here is a comparison of our Lord Jesus Christ – he came unto his own and his own received him not.

They thought evil.

They wanted to kill him.

They did kill him.

They put him on the cross.

It was all to serve God's purpose.

Through Jesus' death and resurrection many are saved alive.

The same comparison with Joseph – because of the evil that was done to him God meant it for good and many were saved alive.

Jesus Christ showed us compassion.

We owed a debt we could never pay and he paid it. We're guilty of death but Jesus did that for us on the cross and as a result Jesus rose from the dead, filled us with the Holy Ghost and fire - rewarded us with an exciting and adventurous life and what's the Lord doing for us?

The same as Joseph – he will nourish you and your little ones. And he comforted them and spake kindly unto them – this is what the Lord does for us.

The Lord is always with you.

Exciting story – a story of forgiveness, of fleeing fornication of trusting in the Lord no matter what comes to pass.

A final thought for you to ponder.

Joseph forgave his brothers.

However they really struggled to believe they had been forgiven. Joseph had completely forgiven them and they had nothing to fear from him.

Jesus has also forgiven us of our sin.

Can we believe it?

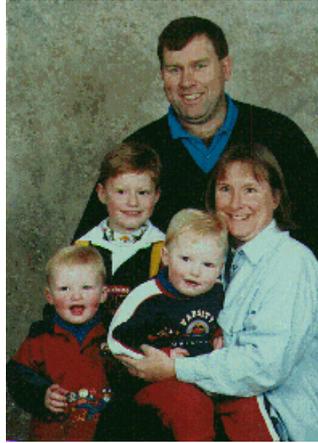
Can we accept it?

Forgiveness is such a huge gift to receive that it's hard to fully accept that it's possible.

Hopefully you can fully accept and receive and rejoice in... the forgiveness of God.

Amen

Our Lord Jesus Christ Is The Same Yesterday, Today & Forever And In These Modern Times Miracles Still Happen ...



A special thanks to Our Lord Jesus Christ for his powerful healing hand which enabled us to have children and to my church [The Revival Fellowship](#) for all their prayers and support...

Let me explain...

My name is Allan Wilson and in December 1986 I became a born again Christian, I was [baptized](#) by full immersion and received God's [Holy Spirit](#) with the Bible evidence of [speaking in tongues](#)...

I once was a compulsive gambler , however through the power of Jesus Christ my life changed dramatically, with gambling, smoking cigarettes, drinking alcohol and swearing all ceasing within the first few weeks of my conversion...

In 1990 my wife Michele was also born again.

After 10 years of marriage we seemed never likely to be able to have children, however through the loving prayers of our brothers and sisters in the Lord we were blessed with our first born son Samuel in 1995...

It was then the doctor discovered she had very advanced endometrioses (a condition which can cause infertility and miscarriages), despite this medical condition the Lord was doubly gracious, with Michele giving birth to twins Benjamin and Nathan in 1998...

To learn more about our fellowship click [here](#)