

(Genesis) Genesis 43:16-23

by J. Vernon McGee

Joseph's actions reveal his character and God's providence, bringing fear and guilt to the brethren, but also leading to the official's conversion.

Duration: 3:54

Scripture: Genesis 43:16-32

Topics: "Genesis"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker discusses the guilt complex that Joseph's brothers have after selling him into slavery. The brothers are invited to dine with Joseph, but they are filled with fear and speculation about his intentions. Joseph invites them to his home because he does not want to reveal his identity publicly. The brothers apologize and plead with the steward of Joseph's house, explaining that they had found their money in their sacks and had brought additional money to buy food.

Transcript

Now, friends, this is a dramatic moment. He looks down, not at ten boys, but eleven of them. And frankly, all twelve of them are there together.

Will you notice this? Verse 16, 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. Now, why would he do this? Well, I think it's quite obvious why that he would do this. Joseph invites these brethren of his home because he did not want to make himself known under them publicly.

He wanted to be a private affair. Now, will you notice, they go home. The man did it, Joseph, bad, 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 assets. Now, these men are really panicky now because they can't imagine him inviting them to his home for any good because he's dealt with them so harshly before, and now he's invited them home for lunch.

Again, here is something that under ordinary circumstances would be something to brag about, as if the President of the United States had invited you to the blue room for dinner, or the pink room, or better still,

the dining room, and you were invited there for dinner. Why, you would think it was a wonderful thing, but in this particular instance, it brings no joy to these men whatsoever. You see, they have a guilt complex, and it's a mean one because they are the ones that sold their brother.

And there is a strange parallel here, and when they finally got there, they wondered, they began to speculate, was it because our money was put back in the bag and he's been seeking an occasion to take us and make slaves of us? Well, they didn't hesitate to make a slave of him and sell him down into the land of Egypt. Now, will you notice verse 19, and they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house, and said, Oh, sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food. 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 in full weight.

We brought it again in our hand. Are they beginning to apologize? They're beginning to plead, you see. They even tell this man that's brought them there, who evidently was an official, listen to them, verse 22, and other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food.

We cannot tell who put our money in our sack. And this official had been instructed. Joseph had told him what to say.

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.

Now, this man evidently, through the testimony of Joseph, had come to a knowledge of the living and true God. And I think Joseph had let him in, at least partially, on what was taking place. The man says, Well, I had your money.

And I think that frightened him all the more.

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