

RUSSELL SANDERS

4-30-2021

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH – LESSON 11

JOSEPH'S CHALLENGE TO THE BROTHERS

We pick up today where we left off where Joseph accused his ten brothers of being spies in Genesis 42:9 where it said, ***“to see the nakedness of the land”*** resulting from the widespread famine. Joseph was about 38 to 40 years old now, having been in Egypt around 21-23 years. “Young lad” Benjamin would have to have been about age 30 give or take a little.

The brothers denied being spies although Joseph continued to say it. They told him they were all sons of one man, twelve of them, but the youngest remained home. He was so dear to his father, and the other son “was not” (assuming he may be dead, but certainly gone).

Joseph said, “prove it” and here is how. Go home to your father and bring back that younger son. Do not dare come back without him or you will surely prove that you are spies. As surety, I will hold one of you hostage in my prison until you return. (my paraphrases.) Simeon was then bound and kept in Egypt.

Reuben chastised his brothers for going against him about 17-year-old Joseph. They acknowledged their guilt for doing the evil deed and knew that they were being punished as Reuben told them (Genesis 42:22), “Therefore, behold also his blood is required” of us.

Joseph had been speaking the Egyptian language using an interpreter. They had no idea that he could understand everything they were saying among themselves. Joseph heard them acknowledge their guilt to one another. It touched him with such emotion that he had to excuse himself to go weep in private.

When he returned, he communed with them a bit then commanded his servants to fill all their grain sacks. He also commanded that all the money they had paid be put in the tops of their sack discreetly. They then in vs. 26 “laded their asses with the corn and departed thence.” They were heading back to Canaan.

When they got home, they told daddy Jacob about the ordeal. But when they opened the grain sacks, they found all their money. This immediately struck fear in them imagining that when they returned to Egypt, they might be accused of stealing it.

They also told Jacob that upon returning to Egypt that Benjamin would have to be with them. Jacob vehemently objected saying one son is already dead, and if something were to happen to Benjamin it would ***“bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to “hell”*** (sheol, the grave). (Vs. 38.)

The brothers knew their sin against Joseph was bringing judgment upon them as Moses would years later say in numbers 32:23, ***“and be sure your sin will find you out.”*** Their “hidden” sin is soon to be exposed.

God knows every “secret” or “hidden” sin in your life. Repent sincerely of it, or else He might in some way expose it and it will “find you out.” Spare yourself that embarrassment and make it right without further hesitation. There are no secrets hidden from him.