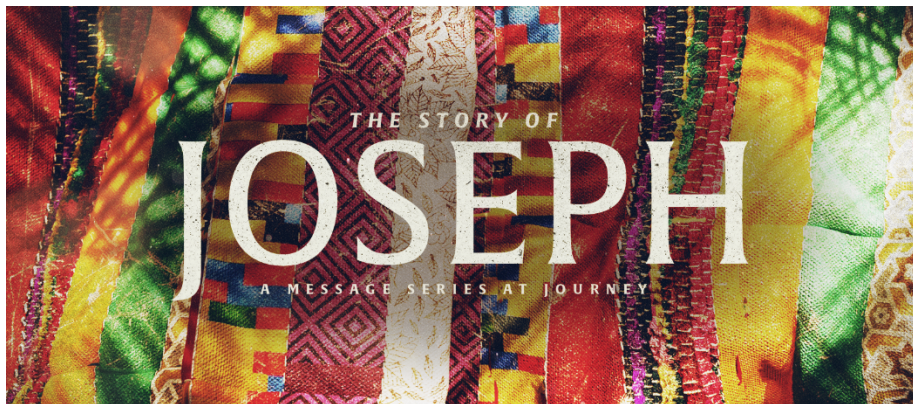




Mike Mozingo
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THE TEST OF FORGIVENESS Genesis 41–45

JOSEPH INTERPRETED PHAROAH'S DREAMS

- 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine.
- Stewardship is managing what we have been entrusted with.
- We honor God with some, we use some, we save some, and we bless others with some.

Joseph Made Ruler of Egypt

³⁷ Joseph's suggestions were well received by Pharaoh and his officials. ³⁸ So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. ⁴⁰ You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours." ⁴¹ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt." ⁴² Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, "Kneel down!" So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt. ⁴⁴ And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval." **Genesis 41:37-44 NLT**

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

³ So Joseph's ten older brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain. ⁴ But Jacob wouldn't let Joseph's younger brother, Benjamin, go with them, for fear some harm might come to him. ⁵ So Jacob's sons arrived in Egypt along with others to buy food, for the famine was in Canaan as well. ⁶ Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground. ⁷ Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where are you from?" he demanded. "From the land of Canaan," they replied. "We have come to buy food." ⁸ Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn't recognize him. ⁹ And he remembered the dreams he'd had about them

many years before. He said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become." ¹⁰ "No, my lord!" they exclaimed. "Your servants have simply come to buy food." ¹¹ We are all brothers—members of the same family. We are honest men, sir! We are not spies!" ¹² "Yes, you are!" Joseph insisted. "You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become." ¹³ "Sir," they said, "there are actually twelve of us. We, your servants, are all brothers, sons of a man living in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is back there with our father right now, and one of our brothers is no longer with us." ¹⁴ But Joseph insisted, "As I said, you are spies! ¹⁵ This is how I will test your story. I swear by the life of Pharaoh that you will never leave Egypt unless your youngest brother comes here! ¹⁶ One of you must go and get your brother. I'll keep the rest of you here in prison. Then we'll find out whether or not your story is true. By the life of Pharaoh, if it turns out that you don't have a younger brother, then I'll know you are spies." ¹⁷ So Joseph put them all in prison for three days. ¹⁸ On the third day Joseph said to them, "I am a God-fearing man. If you do as I say, you will live. ¹⁹ If you really are honest men, choose one of your brothers to remain in prison. The rest of you may go home with grain for your starving families. ²⁰ But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. This will prove that you are telling the truth, and you will not die." To this they agreed. **Genesis 42:3-20 NLT**

- Joseph tests his brothers' hearts.
- Joseph keeps Simeon in prison.
- The brothers go back to Jacob with the news.
- Finally, after the grain runs out, they go back with Benjamin to Egypt.
- Joseph has a feast in his palace.
- The silver cup is placed in Benjamin's bag.

JOSEPH REVEALS HIS IDENTITY AND FORGIVES THEM

¹ Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. ² Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace. ³ "I am Joseph!" he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?" But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. ⁴ "Please, come closer," he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. ⁵ But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. ⁶ This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. ⁸ So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt. **Genesis 45:1-8 NLT**

- Healing comes through forgiveness.
- God's grace empowers us to forgive those who hurt us deeply.
- Forgiveness is a path to freedom—for you and others.
- God still redeems broken relationships.