

September 20, 2020

“Victorious Love”  
Lesson 3 of Unit

Genesis 42:6-25

### **Intro**

By definition, a surprise is something that you weren't expecting. Think about the best surprise you've ever experienced. If it was one you hoped for, the emotional reaction was probably high but likely not at its highest. The deepest emotional reactions (in my opinion) are those that come when something hoped for but not anticipated for a long time, if ever, happens. We've seen these kinds of reactions when families are surprised at sporting events with the return of a loved one from military duty. They were anticipating that person's return, but the unexpected joy of seeing them **now** touches our hearts.

Despite Joseph's political power, he doesn't anticipate seeing his family at any foreseeable time. Imagine the conflicting emotions he must be going through when he unexpectedly is face to face with his brothers for the first time in roughly 15 years.

When Joseph reveals himself to his brothers (Gen. 45), we find out that it is year two of the seven-year famine period.

### **Read Genesis 42:6-25**

1. How does vs. 6 show an “obedient love” (last week's lesson title)? How do the brothers' actions mirror Joseph's dream in Gen. 37:9?
2. In vs. 7-8, Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they don't recognize him. What are some reasons Joseph recognizes them, but they don't recognize him? Why did Joseph pretend not to recognize them and to speak harshly to them?
3. Joseph “remembered his dreams” about his brothers in vs. 9. What might those dreams have made him think of?
4. For what reasons might Joseph have accused his brothers of being spies in vs. 9? Is he just trying to make them squirm a little? Is he testing their character? Is he protecting the country? Other possibilities?

5. What is the brothers' response in vs. 10-11? Are their answers believable or not? Why?
  
6. When someone claims to be honest (42:11), but we know of previous dishonesty (37:31-32), what kinds of tests are legitimate to evaluate someone's change / reform? How might the following verses help you in your decisions: 2 Cor. 8:8, Gal. 6:4-5, I Thess. 5:21-22?
  
7. Why does Joseph accuse them again of being spies in vs. 12? What new info does he gain in vs. 13? And why accuse them again of being spies in vs. 14?
  
8. What is Joseph's "test" to his brothers in vs. 15-16? Is it a test of character, a way to see his younger brother, both, or something else besides?
  
9. In vs. 17, what might Joseph be trying to accomplish with the three-day jail sentence?
  
10. In vs. 18, what does Joseph probably mean when he says "I fear God"? What might the brothers assume he means in saying that (see Gen.41:45)?
  
11. What are the conditions of Joseph's new command to his brothers in vs. 19-20? What is the most important condition, and for what reason(s) do you think Joseph emphasized it?
  
12. From what perspective is the story now being told in vs. 21-22? Why / how is this change significant?

