

## JESUS DESPERATE TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO HIS FAMILY

**Gen 45:1** *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.*

We know the background to this incredible story. Joseph's brothers had first tried to kill him and then settled on selling him to some Ishmaelite slave traders who took him to Egypt. Joseph, however, became the second most powerful ruler in Egypt because God was with him. Spiritually speaking, our sins are the brothers of Joseph. Every one of us is a Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Levi, Zebulon, etc. It was our sins that led our Lord to the Cross of Calvary. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53: 5). Our sins were the reason the Lord Jesus ended up on earth just as the sins of Joseph's brothers was the reason he ended up in a foreign country, Egypt. Jesus said he was not of this world, and Joseph's heart was never comfortable in Egypt.

**Exodus 13:19** *And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.*

All that Joseph really cared about and prayed diligently for in Egypt was to be reconciled with his family. The Lord Jesus too had one mission uppermost in his mind: to find his family on this earth – his sons and daughters. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). It did not matter to Joseph that he gained all the wealth and honor of Egypt – his family was the focus of all his attention. Similarly, Jesus is the one God manifested in flesh, but the only treasure he was looking for on this earth was his family; those, who like Joseph, knew the meaning and value of the promise of salvation first preached to Abraham. "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen 12:3). Here is a great lesson for us believers: we must in like manner pass our time sojourning on this earth obsessed with the same burden that Joseph and the Lord Jesus shared – finding the family of God. No matter what Joseph achieved, his aim was for his family to be with him and his bones to be with his fathers. See how the Lord was concerned to be with us forever in the scriptures below!

**John 14:2** *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

**John 14:3** *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

Now, one day, after chastising his brothers for their sin of selling him, Joseph could no longer forbear. However, before he revealed his identity to his brothers, he chased the Egyptians away. Remember the day the Lord Jesus, bursting with emotion, finally chased the Egyptians out of our lives so he could reveal his identity to you and me? The family of Joseph could not identify him although he grew up with them because he looked like an Egyptian Pharaoh now surrounded by Egyptians. Similarly, we could not recognize Jesus as our Creator and Savior when he came to this earth because he looked so ordinary that we despised him. “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him” (Isaiah 53:2). May the Lord Jesus chase the Egyptians that hide his true identity from us! We humans cannot seem to discern the truth whether it comes in the form of glory, such as Joseph, or humility, such as the Lord. It needs a revelation! Just as Joseph chose the moment when he would reveal his identity, the Lord Jesus chooses his moment too.

**I Cor 12:3** *Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.*

“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” (Gen 45:3). At this revelation, the brothers of Joseph were very troubled. When the Lord Jesus revealed himself to us in the beginning, we too were troubled, just as Saul of Tarsus was shocked when Jesus introduced himself on the Road to Damascus. “And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard” (Gen 45:2). Notice how Joseph was not ashamed for the Egyptians to hear how much he loved his family. The Egyptians never heard about the family of Joseph before; they knew him to be the foreigner who saved all of Egypt with his wisdom and closeness to God. Yet they must have been astonished to hear that he had a large family, and when they finally came to know how his brothers had sold him, they must have loved and admired Joseph even more. Such qualities of greatness transcend the boundaries of cultures and countries. The world has heard of the infinite love of love for his church. The Lord sighed and cried many times during his ministry for us. Rest assured the world knows how much the Lord Jesus loves us.

Thankfully, however, our brief period of shock and sorrow was turned into joy once forgiveness was extended through the Lord Jesus just as Joseph's brothers were forgiven and their sorrow turned to joy. "And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance" (Gen 45: 7). We cannot choose the way God saves us, but we can choose to accept his salvation or not. This was the choice facing the brothers of Joseph, and thank God they accepted it. God will always do whatever is necessary to save us. He came in flesh, he submitted to the laws and ordinances of humans for 30 years, he suffered humiliation and mockery despite doing only good and he was crucified as a common criminal for blessing us. It doesn't make sense, neither does the life of Joseph make sense. But it yielded salvation. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Joseph was desperate to reveal himself to his family. Christ has also found us now and is desperate to reveal his identity which brings salvation.

***Tit 2:11*** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

***Tit 2:12*** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

***Tit 2:13*** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

***Tit 2:14*** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Anyone who rejected Joseph would die of the famine that was raging. Anyone who rejects the identity and salvation of the Lord Jesus has already made a choice. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18). There was hope for Reuben, Simeon, Levi and the other brothers because they repented and accepted God's deliverance through Joseph. Our sins have sold our brother, Jesus, to the gruesome punishment of crucifixion, but we can hear his voice crying loudly for our forgiveness. When the Devil reminds us about the horrible things you may have done against the Lord, remind him of what Jesus has done to forgive us.