

01_OLD TESTAMENT JOSEPH_ST JOSEPH SERIES

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00:43

It's the Bible study Evangelista show and I'm Sonja Corbitt your Bible study Evangelista getting back in the swing of things with our study on St Joseph, Priest, Prophet and King of the Holy Family, and Prince of the church. And if you have watched the catholicmom.com video that I did Wednesday of last week posted here on the show page then you know kind of the direction we're going in. But since I have you for quite a bit longer, well somewhat longer, about 20 minutes, I'm going to go into far more depth.

1:19

So what I'd like to cover today is Old Testament Joseph and if I am able to I'd also like to cover Joseph the just as priest. So we'll look at the Old Testament Joseph and then also Joseph, St Joseph as priest of the Holy Family.

Now I mentioned in the video that Saint Joseph he just walked really large in my life back in March. So I won't go into that, but I would like to give you a little more detail on what Saint Joseph actually showed me.

I told you the story about my husband and I'll be honest that when that first happened back in I don't know it's been 15 years now when I came into the church. It was back then just a couple months after I had come in. So I won't go into that but when that happened I just thought it was neat, I thought it was interesting, I felt like it was the Holy Spirit intervening for me and of course he was.

2:16

But now I know that that was Saint Joseph personally intervening for me through my husband. And I just got so much more from him when he showed me - I asked him, I said, "What is it that you want me to know about you?" It's very clear and that story is in the video but it was very clear to me that he was trying to get my attention. And so once he had it I just asked him, "What is it you want me to know?" and I have to be honest I just faced planted. And every time I think about it again, I face plant again ha-ha. And I think it probably has to do quite a bit with my father wound because Joseph has shown himself as my father, the daddy as I mentioned in the video that I had given up ever having.

And to me that brings connotations of this, I don't know, how do I put? How do daddies look at their daughters? They find pleasure in them. They find pleasure in watching them be who they are. And that's the sense that I got from St Joseph very very strongly in the very beginning when he revealed to me that he had intervened for me with my husband. But also for my husband because my poor husband needed that.

3:52

We were just experiencing so much tension and St Joseph just, he really did sort of bring peace. He brought some peace to my husband. He brought peace to me for sure because I knew that the Holy Spirit was sort of, he was defending me in a way because I had come into the church and as other people had said, I split my family.

But one of the things that Saint Joseph showed me and it wasn't a vision or anything like that and I didn't hear Joseph speak, not audibly but I had like this flash of knowing. In this flash I saw St Joseph watching me as a little girl when I was very young and my dad would put us on restriction, put me on restriction for sometimes months at a time. And when that occurred in our home it meant that my dad would take everything out of our rooms that had anything to do with entertainment whatsoever.

01_Old Testament Joseph St Joseph Series

4:58

So, all my toys, all my dolls, all the stuffed animals, any pets, I usually always had a hamster, a fish you know something like that, he would take all my pets. The radio, everything was taken out of my room except for my dresser with my clothes in it and my bed. And so all I was allowed to do was sit on my bed and read or do work books of some sort. Usually school books in some subjects that I didn't have an A in, or something like that, so he would use it as enrichment time. Which I hated those things because they were always so daggum hard.

5:37

Anyway St. Joseph just gave me this flash of him watching me sitting on my bed reading, and I had a bunch, I had a bunch of books because my mom would take me to the library every week and I would get as many books as they would allow me to check out. I would get all of those and I would bring them home and I would read them and as soon as I got done reading them she would take me back. So I was constantly turning over books. But I also had the supply of Bible story books that my mother had bought me and when I got done with my stack of books, in between the time that I finished them and could get back to the library, I would go back to this stack of books that I had and they were a whole bunch of Bible story books.

6:20

My mom, she bought me classics, Illustrated Classics but I also had a whole bunch of Bibles, like Bible story books. And one of them in particular is the one that I saw in my mind, in my heart in this flash where St. Joseph was watching me read these stories.

And it was this, well it was just a particular book and it was really actually very big, but it had like news paper. It was newspaper paper and so the ink would kind of rub off and the pages were different colors. There were white pages and then pink and then yellow and then green so there were sections that had different colored pages. And I just remember I saw in my heart myself on the bed reading these Bible stories about Joseph and how pleased St Joseph was in watching me read those. And I can't even, I can barely speak about it, I mean I can't tell you how tender that feeling was and overwhelming. And just how he knew the loneliness and fear and all of that that I lived in and yet he was present there and he was so delighted in watching me read these stories about him. And hahaha I mean isn't it weird right?

7:44

So that was part of it and then, and then jump forward. Then I understood that it was him who had intervened for me with my husband. It was St Joseph who facilitated my healing through my husband because it's been the friction in personality differences between my husband and I that has brought about the most healing in my whole life.

It's been my relationship with my husband. And St Joseph showed me that my husband is very very like him. That Saint Joseph himself has personality traits that are very very like my husband and that's why he said to him you are Joseph because my husband is very like the actual Saint Joseph.

And so as my husband was healing me just by being who he is, and my resistance against that, and of course you know that goes both ways too, I've helped to heal my husband as well. But I just got this very overwhelming sense that it was Joseph himself working through my husband for my healing. And that he was personally involved and personally responsible and personally encouraging me and lifting me up and providing me graces and all this stuff, you know?

9:18

And then hahaha, there's more, and then I got this very clear knowing- I've always had this thing with God. When God called me to do what I'm doing I was still Baptist and I really, I had only been married about five years. I hadn't even had - I think my youngest son was maybe one or two. And God called me and it began this thing between us that I have always called dream big because the Lord would remind me to dream big in those instances where I would get discouraged over things not happening, or they weren't happening fast enough, or they didn't happen in the way I thought they should or even at all.

01_Old Testament Joseph St Joseph Series

I mean it took a decade and a half for this promise to actually come to fruition and during that time he was forming me to be capable of receiving that promise when it finally came.

10:16

But over and over and over again he would encourage me with that dream big thing in much the same way he did with Abraham in the Old Testament where Abraham would, he would get frustrated or he would get discouraged and God would come back to him and reinstate the Covenant, or reaffirm the Covenant that he had made with Abraham, this promise.

And so, what I saw is that Joseph was also behind the dream big because Joseph himself was a dreamer and that he was the one who was behind all of that and remains the one behind all of that as the dreamer.

And oh my goodness and the fact that you know that Joseph is so just and that's the great strength of my husband is his sense of justice. Joseph the silent and my husband can be, I mean he's funny, but he doesn't say much in the important things unless, unless he must.

11:16

And so I saw Joseph really as my own husband and providing for me and protecting me and healing me and all the things that a good husband should do, that Joseph was behind all that in my actual husband.

And then because of that protection and because of that delight and all of those things that Joseph also occupied the role of father for me. It's just overwhelming I'll finish that story when we get back.

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12:35

Well thank goodness for that break because I was able to blow my nose so I'm not sniffing through the rest of the show and kind of gather myself so when I won't bawl through the rest of it.

But one of the other things that he showed me was that as the pillar of families he is the one who facilitated my husband coming into the church. And of course that came in part through the fact that he was told, "You are Joseph."

But also I prayed specifically to St. Joseph about my husband coming into the Catholic Church. At that time, somewhere around that time, I think it was probably a couple years later, but at some point throughout that prayer I asked my husband if he would film the RCIA classes that I was teaching because at that time that was the Fulfilled study that I still teach in RCIA every single year.

13:31

But it hadn't been published yet and so I went to my husband and I said, "Honey I'm just curious I'd love to get this study published and you know, would you video these classes for me?" and of course he knew what I was asking and I knew that he knew but that was a way for him to get the information without having to read it himself. And at that point I just sensed that he might be ready and we hadn't been able to talk about anything Catholic but at this point he had seen a few other people that we knew and were friends with come into the church. So he agreed to do that and he was in the next year.

And so Fulfilled then I dedicated to St Joseph ex voto because it was in Thanksgiving for him bringing my husband into the Catholic church.

14:15

So as the pillar of families he facilitated that, right? Directly because I prayed for that, but then also directly for my husband. I mean can you see however whelming this is? And so then we see from my own full communion with the church which I wonder if I can actually say this now but you'll see as we

01_Old Testament Joseph St Joseph Series

go through looking at Old Testament Joseph that Old Testament Joseph was the gatherer and storer and the distributor of the wheat in Egypt at that time because there was a famine.

14:57

And so, St Joseph is in a similar way the distributor of the wheat of the Eucharist and he did so actually as the foster father of Christ in nurturing his development, his physical human development, but then also his spiritual development. In nurturing that he was preparing that Eucharist for us, in a way, right?

And so as I was coming into the church the doctrines and the teachings on the Eucharist were the very first issue, I call it a domino. It was the first domino to fall for me because as soon as I looked in John chapter 6 and I compared that to what I knew in the Old Testament about the Manna and Melchizedek and the bread of the presence and all of those Old Testament types of bread in the Old Testament I could see very clearly that what the church taught there in John 6- that's the only thing it can really mean. I just had never been exposed to that teaching before so I had never seen it. Joseph then was the facilitator of that as well.

16:10

So as you can see there's actually more than I can tell that I don't have time to get into and some of it so personal I can't share it because I'm still kind of watching it unfold and I don't want to get in the way. But that's plenty. Can you see then how large Joseph walked in my life? I mean he just really revealed himself and I feel so close to him. It's interesting to me I've been reflecting on this and I'm sure it's because of my father wound. I feel so close to him in a way that I didn't feel when Mary sort of revealed herself to me. And I believe that she wanted me to get to know him. I believe that she is part of why I came to that because it was kind of a similar, it was actually a very similar process that I sort of will say 'found' St Joseph that I 'found' Mary. But in any case, that's enough about me hahaha.

But I know that you were wanting to know what was going on and it's so involved and so personal it's hard to speak about. Like I said I faceplant every time I think about it.

17:22

We got into in the video, I'm not going to try to go over all that old ground. Rather than do that I covered the fact that Old Testament Joseph was Jacob's son. I talked about his position. The meaning of his name, his rank in the family. The birthright I didn't go into a whole lot, but I need to mention this because it's really important.

The birthright in the Old Testament family always went to the oldest son and that's why you have that conflict between Jacob and Esau. This is Joseph's father Jacob and his twin Esau. Jacob was like a minute younger than his brother so he wasn't supposed to have the birthright. But he actually, he manipulated it away from his brother who was complicit in that for a couple of reasons. So it was actually Esau who sold it to his brother Jacob. But Jacob also sort of capitalized on the situation both by, well you'd have to go back and read that story and we don't have time for that.

18:30

But it's interesting that Jacob himself usurped that role as heir from his brother and here Joseph he in a sense, or God would do it in both cases actually, but God would elevate Joseph over his brothers in a similar way that had been done with Jacob himself. And I think the principal there for us is that God can choose whoever he wants and he's not confined to any sort of plan, or any sort of cultural norm however good they might be. He chooses who he chooses and that's pretty much it.

But Joseph was, he dreamed a double dream and in that time ancients believed that dreams were watching while you're asleep. And that's why you get that meaning of Saint Joseph as he's praying and he's watching even as he sleeps. It's because of that ancient understanding of what dreaming meant and in both Joseph and Jacob's situations their dreams were prophetic. God would speak to people in the Old Testament through dreams. Now most of our dreams are not prophetic. They are more subconscious. They tell you the truth about yourself but they're not really pathetic.

19:43

So vest double dream then it showed Joseph this position of authority that he would have. And of course he was a teenager he was like 16 or 17 when he had these two dreams. And of course he was so excited he tells his whole family. He's so excited he tells his family you know and everybody's scandalized by it. Partly because of his youth but also because he was the youngest at the time, almost the youngest.

And so, his watching during sleep then was a sign of God's particular favor in itself. Just the dreaming part was a sign of God's favor. So, he had the dreams and then the content of the dreams was even more scandalous to the family including Jacob because it placed Joseph even over his father which just was not done, right?

And so, here's- imagine the youth of Joseph and he's so excited he tells his whole family yak yak yak and they're just; would you please stop lording yourself over us and so they were really irritated by all of that.

20:52

Now the whole story actually begins in chapter 37 of Genesis which I'd like to go to there. I hope you have your Bible. I hope you have the note taking Bible. I have actually begun using this like I haven't before. Partly because I have gone back to school and so I'm in class and so I'm using this note-taking Bible. I love it actually. I prefer my study Bible because it has all of my notes and stuff but now I'm actually using this new one and I'm taking notes in it. So anyway I hope you have your Bible. Turn to chapter 37 of Genesis.

So we see here that Joseph with 17 at this time and he brought an ill report of his brothers to their father. And he was a young lad it says and Jacob who was called Israel here in first three left Joseph more than any of his children because he was the son of his old age and he had made him a robe with sleeves wear a coat of many colors as I said in the video.

But when his brother saw that his father loved him more than all the rest they hated him. They couldn't even speak peaceably to him. Some of you guys have family members like that that won't even speak to you decently and perhaps you're one of those people in your family that will not speak peaceably to a sibling, or another family member.

22:09

And it says in verse 5, Joseph had a dream and when he told it to his brothers they only hated him the more. And so, he tells them hear this dream that I have dreamed, and he tells what the dream is.

We were binding sheaves in the field and my sheaf arose and stood upright and behold your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf. And his brothers said, "Are you indeed going to reign over us, or are you to have dominion over us?" And so, they hated him all the more for his dreams and for his words. And then he dreamed another dream and he told that to his brothers as well.

The Sun, the moon, and 11 stars were bowing down to me. And when he told it to his father and his brothers his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you've dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brother indeed come to about ourselves down to the ground before you?"

And they were jealous, his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept these things in his mind. So it's similar to the way Mary pondered, right? He kept these this in his mind.

23:06

Now the brothers you can see they were jealous and they hate Joseph and so in the next section they sell him to a caravan and that's the way they did mercantilism, or trading. They traded goods on caravans. It was actually called the Kings Road. There were a bunch of them but there was one particular route that went all the way up into the northern part of the holy land and then back down south to Egypt.

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24:37

So he is sent by Jacob to go check on his brothers who were pasturing their father's flock it says in verse 12. And so he sent Joseph to them. And it says in verse 18 or 19: they said to one another - they see him coming - and they said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits and we'll see what comes of his dreams."

And so, they plan to actually murder him. I mean can you imagine what this must have been like? So there were ten of them and all 10 of them went along with this. I just can't imagine what kind of people these were, but definitely this was not a functional family.

And so, they stripped his cloak off of him and they threw him in a pit. And it says the pit was empty and there was no water in it so it was probably an empty well. And it says they sit down to eat lunch. So they're going to kill him. They stripped off this robe that his father has made for him because they're jealous and they're going to kill him and they sit down and they have lunch. And here comes the caravan up the King's Highway or down the King's Highway whichever one, and it's interesting that it says the camels we're bearing gum, balm and myrrh.

25:46

So gum would cover lots of different things and so would balm. It would essentially be essential oils. Gums and balms would be essential oils and possibly herbs things like that. But this is a specific mention of myrrh and this is interesting because myrrh is symbolic of suffering in the scriptures. If you have read Exalted you know that Mary's name, the root of Mary's name actually comes from the word myrrh. And it indicates very deep suffering.

26:20

So, the brothers then decide instead of killing him they're going to make some money. So they sell him to the traders and when the older brother Reuben came back to the pit and he saw that Joseph wasn't in there he freaks out and he goes where is he? And they had taken Joseph cloak and they're going to lie to their father. They told Reuben what happened and they're going to lie to their father so that their father thinks he's dead.

So, it says in verse 31 of chapter 37 of Genesis they took Joseph's robe and killed a goat and dipped the robe in the blood and they sent the long robe with sleeves and brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. See now whether it is your son's robe or not. And he recognized it and said it's my son's robe. A wild beast has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." And so, he dons sackcloth and ashes and he mourns his son Joseph.

27:23

And then we have in Chapter 38 as I mentioned in the video, we have this sort of parenthesis about Judah and Tamar which were going to completely skip over because the story picks up in chapter 39.

Joseph was taken down to Egypt and Potiphar an officer of pharaoh the captain of the guard an Egyptian bought him from the Ishmaelite's who had brought him down there. And the Lord was with Joseph and he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master the Egyptian and his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper and his hands.

So, Joseph down favor in his sight and attended him and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him an overseer of his house and over all they had the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake. The blessing of the Lord was upon all he had in house and field.

01_Old Testament Joseph St Joseph Series

28:16

So, he left all that he had in Joseph's charge and having him he had no concern for anything but the food which he ate. And so, because of God's favor on Joseph, Potiphar's house prospered. And it's so interesting that here God has given Joseph these two dreams. The second confirms the truth of the first. And then the very next thing that happens is not that he is elevated, but he's plunged into the pit of despair to quote *The Princess Bride*.

He's thrown into the pit of despair and he's sold and now he is a slave in this Egyptian guy's house. And then we have this interesting interlude with Potiphar's wife.

Joseph was handsome and good-looking and after a time his master's wife cast her eyes at Joseph and said lie with me, but he refused. So, he wouldn't lay with her and instead he turns to run, and she pulls his cloak off and then she accuses him of attempting to rape her. And of course that's so typical isn't it? It's almost like she was trouble as soon as she walked in the room, right?

29:38

So it says in verse 20 and Joseph's master Potiphar took him and put him into the prison place where the Kings prisoners were combined and he was there in prison. But look what it says in verse 21. But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's care all of the prisoners who were in the prison and whatever was done there he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison paid no heed to anything that was in Joseph's care because the Lord was with him and whatever he did the Lord made it prosper.

So, here's a principal everywhere Joseph is invited he just takes over in a way that you have no care for it. You don't even have to worry about it. Joseph will oversee it. Joseph will manage it. Joseph will increase it. Joseph will bless it because God is with Joseph. Is that not interesting when we're talking about Saint Joseph?

30:38

Then we have the account of the dreams of two prisoners. So before, when Joseph was 17, he had a double dream. The second dream confirmed the first. And here we have two separate dreamers and they each have a dream of their own, the baker and the butler. In the video I call him the cup bearer, but he was the butler and he did bear the cup.

But anyway, they each have a dream. They're all in prison together and each of the butler and the baker have a dream. And Joseph interprets the dreams for them. He says that the baker will be hanged, but the butler would be released back into the court of pharaoh. And Joseph told him that when he was released he asked him to remember him and the butler completely forgot him.

31:32

Chapter 40 verse 12 then Joseph said to him this is its interpretation. The three branches are three days. Within 3 days Pharaoh will lift your head and restore you to your office and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly when you were his butler but remember me when it is well with you and do me the kindness I beg you to make mention of me to pharaoh and so get me out of this house. For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

And so when the butler is released it says in verse 23 yet the chief Butler did not remember Joseph but forgot him.

I'll be honest I kind of feel like that applies to me a little bit yeah because this whole time I had no idea that Saint Joseph was doing all of this intercession and intervening and all of these wonderful things on my behalf and for me and I had just completely forgotten him. I had never known him so, I kind of feel like this butler.

32:32

And chapter 41 begins like this, after two whole years Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile and behold there came up out of the Nile 7 cows sleek and fat. So he goes on, it tells us what the dream is, and he actually fell asleep it says in verse five and he dreamed a second time. So this is the third set of double dreams. Joseph has dreamed twice. There are two dreams in the dungeon. And now Pharaoh has had a double dream. Remember that the second dream confirms the first.

So, in the morning in verse 8 his Spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians in Egypt and all of his wisemen and Pharaoh told them his dream but there were none who could interpret it. And then the chief Butler said to Pharaoh I remember my fault today. When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own meaning.

A young Hebrew was there with us as a servant of the captain of the guard and when we told him he interpreted our dreams to us. Giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream and as he interpreted to us so it came to pass. I was restored to my office and the baker was hanged.

33:51

Now this is important because not only is Joseph a dreamer but he is an interpreter of dreams. He is the one who, he explains what the dreams mean. So that clearly applies to me this is the first time I've actually even seen this. This clearly applies to me because St Joseph was the one who was interpreting my dream big and then he is also the one who facilitates the coming to pass of that dream big. I just am blown away by that because I just got it right now. So, I am going to have to hurry through because I only have one more segment and I have quite a bit more to get through.

So basically Joseph tells Pharaoh that the seven good cows are seven good years and the seven good ears are 7 good years. That dream is one. And then there are 7 lean and gaunt cows that came up after them are another seven years.

So, there are seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine and so Joseph tells Pharaoh you need to plan you need to plan for this famine that's coming.

34:56

He says something very important and the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God and God will shortly bring it to pass. That's another verse there that kind of always jumped out at me because of the dream big thing, but also these three sets of double dreams, right?

And so he tells Pharaoh, "Let Pharaoh proceed to select a man discreet and wise and set him over the land of Egypt and to appoint overseers over the land and take the fifth part of the produce during the seven plenty years and let them gather all of the food that is coming and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities and let them keep it."

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36:34

And that shall be a reserve for the land against the 7 years of famine which are going to befall Egypt. And then Pharaoh he says that it seems good, right? He says, "Can we find such a man as this in whom is the spirit of God? Since God has shown you all this there's none so discreet and wise as you are. You shall be over all my house. And all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards to the throne will I be greater than you."

And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold I have set you over all the land of Egypt." And then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand and arrayed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck and made him ride in the second chariot. And they cried before him bow the knee.

01_Old Testament Joseph St Joseph Series

And so, he set him over all the land of Egypt. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am pharaoh and without your consent no man shall lift up hand or foot in all of the land of Egypt." And lots and lots of other wonderful things happened. But it says in verse 46 that Joseph was 30 years old when he entered the service of pharaoh King of Egypt.

37:36

So, Joseph has risen to prominence. He goes from prophecy to the pit, to Potiphar's, to prison, and to prominence in chapters 37 through 41. Isn't that amazing? I love this story about Joseph and I actually clung to it quite a bit throughout my own formation.

So, when Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt he said to his sons, of course seven years have passed right? Or actually 14 because the seven years of plenty and the seven years of famine. Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt and he said to his sons, "Why are you looking at each other go down to Egypt."

So, Joseph brothers, 10 of them, went down to buy grain in Egypt. And so, they did not recognize Joseph who now he has a different language he looks different and Joseph speaks roughly to them it says in verse 7. And he starts to really grill them. He wants to know if they are repentant over what they did to him. And he sort of, he veils these kind of intentional questions that are meant to sort of pull out information about his family and his father and whether his father is well, or if he's even alive? And then of course his younger brother.

38:49

And then it says that they were there for three days. He put them in prison because he wants to see the youngest brother. He doesn't actually just I want to see him, he wants to see if the brothers will give their other brother up, the youngest, just like they did to Joseph.

He's testing them to see what they're going to do. He throws them in jail to make the decision and then they talk among themselves and they go this is our fault because we're guilty of the blood of our brother, or you know the life of our brother. And Joseph knew everything that they were saying because he understood them in their native language. But they didn't know that he did. hahaha.

So, the whole time when he realizes that they - Reuben says in verse 22 in chapter forty-two. Did I not tell you not to sin against the lad, but you would not listen.

39:38

So now there comes a reckoning for his blood. And they didn't know that Joseph understood them because there was an interpreter. But he turned away from them and he wept. And then he came back and he said to them that they have to fill their bags with grain and then he gave them their money back and sent them away with the grain and the money. And so, it looked like they were stealing from Pharaoh's stockpile.

And then they head home, and they are about I don't know a little ways down the road and they look in the mouth of the sack and they see the money. And then they freak out. They say oh my gosh! At this their hearts failed them and they turned to trembling at one another and say, "What is this that God has done to us?" And they go back to Jacob in Canaan and they told him everything and that he wanted to see Benjamin.

And then Jacob just, he freaks out he says, "You have bereaved me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come upon me and Reuben wants to take the place of Benjamin. You have to just read the whole thing but eventually they do take Benjamin to Egypt and - because they need food again, right?

40:50

So, they have to go back. And Jacob just prays that God is with Benjamin and that nothing will happen. And Joseph saw Benjamin with them and he asks them to dine with him and he gets to see his brother for the first time. And he actually almost loses himself.

Verse 29 Joseph lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son. So, his actual fully blood brother and said, "Is this your youngest brother of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you my son." And then Joseph made haste for his heart yearned for his brother and he sought a place to weep and he entered his chamber and wept there. And then it says he washed his face and came out and controlling himself he said, "Let them eat."

And they ate a meal together although at separate tables because the Egyptians wouldn't eat with the Hebrews because it's an abomination it says in verse 32.

41:42

But it says; they sat before him the first born according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth and the men looked at one another in amazement. They didn't know how they knew who was the oldest and who was the youngest but they were seated according to their age and they were shocked by that, the brothers were.

And Joseph made sure that Benjamin had five times the portions that any of the other brothers had. Isn't that interesting?

So then as one last test and possibly even maybe just a hint of revenge possibly ha-ha. He sends them on their way with their grain and he hides his silver cup in Benjamin's bag and then he stops them and says, once they've been overtaken, he says, "Why have you returned evil for good? Why have you stolen my silver cup?"

And they are I mean their hearts completely fail them. They are freaking out because it's Benjamin, and Joseph threatens to take Benjamin as a slave and they are worried for their father because Benjamin won't come back and he knows that their father, they know that their father has lost Joseph, and now he's about to lose Benjamin after being afraid of this very thing happening, and they are scared to death.

42:57

And then Joseph it says in chapter 45 he could not control himself before them any longer and he says make everyone go out from me. And so, no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers and he wept aloud so that the Egyptians heard it and the household of pharaoh heard that. And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?"

Oh, my goodness so Joseph then is an emotional man. He's not afraid to cry and in this particular situation he's so excited to see that his brothers has truly repented that he barely knows how to contain himself.

43:32

And then we come to chapter 46 where Jacob brings his whole family to Egypt. They go home and they tell their father in chapter 45 verse 26 they told him Joseph is still alive and he is ruler of the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted for he did not believe them but when they told him all the words of Joseph which he had said to them. And when he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father revived and Israel said, Israel is Jacob, its Jacobs new name that God gave him. He says, "It is enough, Joseph my son is still alive I will go and see him before I die." And so, everyone goes to Egypt, the whole family.

And that is how the people of God ended up in Egypt because they started there and then that's the whole of the 12 tribes, right? So all of Jacob's sons, the whole family goes to live in Egypt because Joseph is the ruler over all of Egypt under Pharaoh because God has put him in that position, right? And so now all of the tribes are there and they stay there. They remain in Egypt until like 400 years later. It

says at the end that there came a time when there was a pharaoh who did not know Joseph and at that point then they become persecuted.

44:56

But before that he settles his family in like versus 7 ish around in chapter 47 he talks about how pharaoh, or the text talks about how Pharaoh tells Joseph to settle his family in the best of the land.

So Joseph does that and they all live there and then there was no food because the famine was so severe and so Joseph gathered up all the money in Egypt because the people would come and they would basically give Joseph all their money in exchange for food because there was nothing to eat.

And when all the money ran out then the people came to him and said look all we got is cattle here. And so, he would take all the cattle. He would gather it for the Pharaoh and then they ran out of cattle so then they had to sell them their land. So, all of the land then became the purview of Egypt and even at that point Joseph then would send the people back out to the land to farm it and then collect tithe for pharaoh.

45:51

So, my point is that you can see how Joseph then increased the holdings of pharaoh by his administration and that's what his name means, as I mentioned in the video, it means to increase and it's kind of an accounting term. But Joseph had this gift for administration in a way that multiplied everything. Partly because God's blessing was on him, but also because he had that gift. And so, all of the people lived there.

One other thing, Joseph two sons he has two sons Ephraim and Manasseh and their names are very interesting. His first born was named Manasseh and it means making me forgetful. And it says for God has made me forget all of my toil, and my father's house. And the name of the second son he called Ephraim because God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction. So, his two sons he named making me forgetful, and fruitful in the land of my reflection. Isn't that interesting?

46:44

So, well there's so much and I have to stop at this point but the very last thing I want to point out is the blessing that Jacob gives to Joseph and all of sons really but there's a beautiful blessing. I don't have time to read it but it's in chapter 49 in verses 22 through 26 it's the blessings of Jacob on Joseph and it says that they shall be on the head of Joseph and on the crown on the head of him who was separate from his brothers. And so, Jacob blesses Joseph and Joseph's sons and he includes them actually in the blessing before he dies.

There's so much still that I could say and I don't have time but next week we'll cover St. Joseph the just as priest of the Holy Family.

I'm Sonja Corbitt the Bible study Evangelista.

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