

STARTING AGAIN - Genesis 42-47



CAST: Narrator, Jacob, Joseph, Reuben, Judah, brothers, steward

PROPS: Sacks, gold cup, money, fruits & nuts

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NARRATOR: Joseph is now 37 years old and all of the Middle East is suffering from a severe famine.

JACOB *in Canaan*: What are you looking at each other for? There is grain in Egypt so go and buy some for us so that we'll survive. Benjamin is not to go - I can't have something happening to him.

NARRATOR: So Joseph's ten brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain where Joseph was governor and he sold grain to all the people.

His brothers came and bowed down to him, just like in Joseph's dream. He recognised his brothers but acted like a stranger to them and they didn't know him.

JOSEPH: Where do you come from?

BROTHERS: From Canaan to buy food.

JOSEPH: You are spies!

BROTHERS: No, my Lord. We have come to buy food. We are brothers and honest men - not spies. We are twelve brothers - one is home with Father and the other is...um, no more.

JOSEPH: Like I said - you are spies! You are going nowhere until your youngest brother comes here. One of you can go and fetch him while the rest of you stay in prison.

NARRATOR: Joseph locked them up in prison for 3 days.

JOSEPH: I fear God. If you want to live and you are honest, one of you will stay in prison while the rest of you take your grain home then bring your youngest brother to me.

BROTHERS talking among themselves:

We're guilty. Remember our brother pleading with us but we wouldn't listen.

REUBEN: I told you but no, you wouldn't listen!

NARRATOR: Joseph understood what they were saying so turned away to weep. Then he came back and arrested Simeon.

He ordered that their sacks be filled with grain with their money returned and food for the trip. They loaded their donkeys and left. On the way they rested at a roadside stop and found their money returned in their sacks.

BROTHERS: What has God done to us!

NARRATOR: Back at home they told Jacob all that had happened, - even repeating that they were honest men and that one brother is no more!

JACOB: You grieve me! Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more and now you want to take Benjamin!

REUBEN: You can kill my 2 sons if I don't bring him back.

JACOB: You're not going to take my son. If anything happened to him it would kill me.

NARRATOR: Eventually they ran out of grain so Jacob told them to go and buy more.

BROTHERS: We're not going unless our brother comes with us.

JACOB: Why ever did you tell the man you had another brother?

BROTHERS: The man asked all about our family.

JUDAH: I'll take any blame.

JACOB: Well, take these fruits and nuts for a present, take double money and the money that was returned, and your brother.

(In Egypt)

NARRATOR: When Joseph saw Benjamin he gave orders for the men to be taken to his home for midday dinner. They were afraid.

STEWARD: Don't be afraid, God has given you treasure in your sacks. I have your money and I am releasing Simeon.

JOSEPH: Is your father well?

BROTHERS (bowing before Joseph): He is in good health.

NARRATOR: Joseph sat separately, with them facing him. They were amazed that they were seated in order of age with Benjamin served 5 times their servings.

Joseph ordered their bags to be filled with grain and his cup to be put in the bag of the youngest brother, with his money. They had just left the city when the steward caught up to them and accused them of stealing his master's cup.

STEWARD: Whoever is caught with the cup will be my slave and the rest will be blameless.

NARRATOR: Last of all the cup was found in Benjamin's sack so they returned to the city.

JOSEPH: What's this you've done?

JUDAH: We are now your slaves.

JOSEPH: I can't do that. Only the man who stole my cup will be my slave.

JUDAH: When my father sees the lad is not with us he will die. I agreed to take any blame - let me be the slave and let the lad go home.

JOSEPH: Everybody else out!

(Crying) I am Joseph your brother who you sold into Egypt. God sent me before you to save your lives. Hurry up and go to my father and tell him to come to me, the lord of all Egypt.

NARRATOR: Pharaoh ordered that the men be provided with carts. He gave them the best land in Egypt to settle in.

Joseph also gave them donkeys, clothing and food. Jacob and all his family moved to Egypt.

After Jacob died 17 years later, Joseph's brothers asked him for forgiveness, saying their father said he should.

JOSEPH: You meant it for evil but God meant it for good.

You will carry my bones from here to the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.