



# Grain, Grief & Grace

Genesis 42:1-28 | Abel Mendez | July 28, 2024

## INTRODUCTION

How here likes comedy, suspense, documentary, drama???

### Joseph : The Telenovela!

- My Nana sometime had those telenovela playing on the TV!
- A PowerPacked Chapter - Famine, Face-2-Face with the Past and Final Cliffhanger!

### Focus: Road from Dreams to Destiny can be a Bumpy Road

#### Where We are: Show Timeline

Timeline of life of Joseph (Tipping Point has Tipped)

Where we are still going.

#### Where we are Going: Show Graphics

Grain, Grief and Grace

1. Grain : God in the Big Picture
2. Grief : God in the Details
3. Grace : God's Power

## 1. GRAIN (GOD SEES THE BIG PICTURE)

*God is Sovereign who uses all things for His Provision, Preservation and Purpose...*

**42:1** When Jacob learned that there was **grain in Egypt (1)**, he said to his sons, **“Why do you just keep looking at each other?”**

**2** He continued, “I have heard that there is **grain in Egypt (2)**. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.”

**3** Then ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy **grain from Egypt (3)** .

*3x Mention “Grain in Egypt” - Any Parents Relate?*

### 1. The Famine is God opportunity for provision.

- When Famine is part of his plan and he is using it for Jesus.
- **“You may never know that JESUS is all you need, until JESUS is all you have.” - Corrie Ten Boom**
- God uses seasons of need, brokenness, loss, betrayal, to build up our faith...

*My Story of Provision in a Time of Need (The Phone Call)*

### 2. Big Picture Preservation : Using Famine to Move His People

*God had a purpose to multiply and build up his people in Egypt.*

- The immediate family would receive the best land of Goshen.
- God would build up His people for 430 years.
- God would ultimately lead his people through Exodus to His Covenant Promise.



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4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. **5 So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain**, for there was famine in the land of Canaan also.

*From Jacob's Point of View there is Fear...*

***From God's Point of View there is a Kingdom...***

***Like Good Year Blimp Over a Parade - God is Omniscient - He knows all all foresees all things, uses all things (even our suffering and wrongs) for a greater purpose.***

### 3. God's Purpose : A Nation, A Tribe, A Family, A Messiah

6 Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. **So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.**

*Joseph's Dreams are Fulfilled in this moment.*

1. Joseph had 2 Dreams are being fulfilled. (Gen 37:5 & 9)
2. His brother's hated him for it (Gen 37:8 "Do you actually intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us? And they hated him all the more...)
3. 2 Time was because the dreams were certain (Gen 41:32 - The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh *in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God*, and God will do it soon.

**7 As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them**, but **he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them.** "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food."

**8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.**

*Joseph Recognized : Local Surfers understand the Hebrew Word!*

- **Recognized** (Nakar) to discern, know by knowledge, regard or treat as foreigner or alien.

**This has Got to be one of the most difficult moments in Joseph's Life...**

1. I believe Joseph had turned the page... New life... New Wife... Two Kids... And now he is face to face with his past...

**Let's Move, God in the Big Picture, To God in the Details...**



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## 2. GRIEF (GOD IN THE DETAILS)

Sorrow, Distress, Anguish, Pain, Distress, Suffering, Hardship, Heartache, Heaviness, Mourning, Remorse, Regret....We see it all in Joseph & In the Brothers.

### 1. Joseph's Grief: The Struggle is Real!

**9 Then he remembered his dreams** about them and said to them, **"You are spies!** You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

*Josephs New Life (A Ring, Robe, New Ride & New Relationships)*

"A signet **ring**... **robes**... a new **ride** (chariot)... New **relationships** (Wife & two sons) Manasseh... **"Because God has made me forget all my trouble..."** Ephraim... **"Because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."**  
(Genesis 41:42-52)

*And Now He is Face to Face with the Past, his brothers the betrayers, bowing before him... THE STRUGGLE IS REAL!  
(Telenovela Image)*

**9** Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, **"You are spies!** You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

**10 "No, my lord,"** they answered. "Your servants have come to buy food. **11** We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies."

**12 "No!"** he said to them. "You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

**13 But they replied, "Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more."**

**14** Joseph said to them, "It is just as I told you: You are spies! **15 And this is how you will be tested: As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. 16** Send one of your number to get your brother; the rest of you will be kept in prison, so **that your words may be tested** to see **if you are telling the truth.** If you are not, then as surely as Pharaoh lives, you are spies!" **17** And **he put them all in custody for three days.**

**Spoiler Alert : Joseph forgives:** *This scene shows 1) Relationships are messy, 2) We have a choice in how we respond to 3) Through Forgiveness is given, Trust is earned.*

*Forgive (Aphiemi) to cancel or to 'remit' a debt.*

**Imagine You have a Blue Car...**

**To Forgive = To Absorb a Debt - For intentional / unintentional sin, missed marks, mistakes, and rebellions.**

- "To inwardly pay the debt of the wrong doer rather than making him pay for it." - Tim Keller
- "Your forgiveness means you bear the cost of what your friend has done rather than making them bear it." - Tim Keller



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**18 On the third day**, Joseph said to them, **“Do this and you will live, for I fear God: 19** If you are honest men, **let one of your brothers stay** here in prison, while **the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. 20** But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die.” This they proceeded to do.

*It is the FEAR OF GOD that allowed Joseph to show mercy and Grace.*

- **Fear** (yare) to fear, be afraid, to stand in **awe, reverence, honor and respect**

### 2. Grief of the Brothers : Guilt, Regret, Remorse...

**21** They said to one another, **“Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come on us.”**

**22** Reuben replied, “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn’t listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.” **23 They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter.**

**24 He turned away from them and began to weep**, but then **came back** and spoke to them again. He **had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.**

*Joseph’s testing is Producing Godly Sorry which Ultimately Brings salvation without regret.*

**Hebrews 12:5-6 (NKJV)** *“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.”*

**2 Corinthians 7:10** "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

### 3. GRACE (GOD’S POWER)

God’s Gift To Us & God’s Gift Through Us

**25** Joseph gave orders to **(1) fill their bags with grain**, to put each man’s **(2) silver back in his sack, and** to give them **(3) provisions for their journey**. After this was done for them, **26** they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left.

*Biblical Definition of Grace : God’s UNMERITED Favor (i.e which is not deserved or merited)*

#### G.R.A.C.E. (God’s Riches At Christ Expense)

- Giving the brothers what they needed.
- Giving the brothers what they did not deserve.
- Giving the brothers to empower them on their Journey!

#### **A Great Picture of What God gives us through Jesus Christ!**

- **Forgiveness** (Reconciliation - Peace)
- **Renewal** (Transformation - Purpose)
- **Empowerment** (The Power of the Holy Spirit)



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**27 At the place where they stopped** for the night **one of them opened his sack** to get feed for his donkey, and **he saw his silver** in the mouth of his sack. **28 “My silver has been returned,”** he said to his brothers. “Here it is in my sack.” **Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, “What is this that God has done to us?”**

**Kindness is moving his brothers towards repentance.**

**Romans 2:4** *Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?*

**“We often think ‘Grace for me!’ But what about Grace through me, AND to others?!!!”**

**Grace is God's Gift TO us and God's Gift Through Us TO OTHERS**

### CONCLUSION

**God Sees the Big Picture - God is in the Details - His Grace is Power...**

*“It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower door in the processing center at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there – the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie's pain-blanching face. He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. ‘How grateful I am for your message, Fraulein.’ He said. ‘To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!’*

*His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.*

*Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him.*

*I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me your forgiveness.*

*As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me.*

*And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges, but on his. When he tells us to love our enemies, He gives, along with the command, the love itself.”*

**Grace is God's Gift, to us and Through Us**

*I invite you to receive His grace now, receive His forgiveness now, to receive His power to forgive others.*