

Read Genesis 42:21-28

**21** Speaking among themselves, they said, “Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn’t listen. That’s why we’re in this trouble.”

**22** “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy?” Reuben asked. “But you wouldn’t listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!”

**23** Of course, they didn’t know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter.

**24** Now he turned away from them and began to weep. When he regained his composure, he spoke to them again. Then he chose Simeon from among them and had him tied up right before their eyes.

**25** Joseph then ordered his servants to fill the men’s sacks with grain, but he also gave secret instructions to return each brother’s payment at the top of his sack. He also gave them supplies for their journey home.

**26** So the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and headed for home.

**27** But when they stopped for the night and one of them opened his sack to get grain for his donkey, he found his money in the top of his sack.

**28** “Look!” he exclaimed to his brothers. “My money has been returned; it’s here in my sack!” Then their hearts sank. Trembling, they said to each other, “What has God done to us?”

**What were the brothers thinking and saying to each other (v. 21)?** They were feeling guilty for what they had done to Joseph and they thought God was punishing them.

**What did Reuben say (v. 22)?** If you had listened to me, we wouldn’t be in this trouble.

**Who was Reuben?** The oldest of the brothers.

**Did they realize Joseph could understand them when they were talking to each other in their own language (v. 23)?** No. They thought he could only speak Egyptian because he was using an interpreter to talk to them.

**When Joseph heard them talking, what did he do (v. 24)?** He cried. He felt sad for his brothers.

**Which brother did they decide to leave behind in prison?** Simeon

**What did Joseph have his servants do next (v. 25)?** Fill their sacks with grain

**What was Joseph’s secret?** He also had his servants return their money they paid for the grain with. The servants put the money in the top of each brother’s sack of grain.

**The brothers loaded the grain on their donkeys and left for home. What happened when they stopped for the night (27)?** One of the brothers found the money in the top of his sack.

**How did they feel when they discovered the money?** They were really afraid. They thought Joseph would kill them.

**Who did they blame for putting their money in their sacks (v. 28)?** God