

Genesis 45:1-15ⁱ

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there —since there are five more years of famine to come — so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty. And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.'" Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

ⁱ About the [Track 1] First Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

Today's reading describes Joseph's revelation of his identity to his brothers. Joseph, who had recognized his brothers, had planted a silver cup in his youngest brother Benjamin's food bag (Benjamin was Rachel's other son). When the cup is conveniently "found," Joseph demands that the boy remain as a slave in Egypt. The brothers are filled with sadness because they know that if anything happens to Benjamin, the aged Jacob will certainly die of sorrow.

Joseph is so overcome with emotion when he perceives the repentance of his brothers that he reveals to them that he is their long lost brother. He also explains that he knows that his

enslavement in Egypt was God's way of ensuring their survival from the famine and thus also making sure that God's promises would be fulfilled.