

## **Staring At Each Other Genesis 42:1-2**

### **Question asked by Jacob of his sons in a time of bitter famine**

Famines frequent because of very few ways of preserving food

Gen 12:10 in the days of Abraham; Gen 26:1 Isaac; Gen 41:57 Joseph

Problem of acquiring food is given much attention in the Bible

Garden of Eden Gen 3:6; Man driven from Garden Gen 3:19; Esau's selling his birthright Gen 25:29-34;

Temptations of Jesus Mt 4:1-4; Jesus' model prayer Mt 6:11; Jesus feed of five thousand Mt 14:15-21

Almost always there is a lesson to be found in such stories.

### **Value Of Leadership**

Sons of Jacob lacked leadership and initiative - There was need for food and they only looked at one another; Each was waiting on the other to do something; Doing nothing has never produced anything

Their father took initiative - shows wisdom and maturity - **Genesis 42:1-2**

For the church to go forward today there must be leadership - **1Peter 5:1-3**

Shepherd's duty to lead flock; Can't lead if we won't follow - **Hebrews 13:17**

### **Importance Of Vision**

Every accomplishment must begin with vision; Man cannot do anything he cannot visualize; Jacob saw what could & should be done - **Genesis 42:2**

Also shows wisdom and maturity - Sons did not visualize going to Egypt for food; Leadership should be able to visualize what needs to be done

Vision (not just physical but mental) is essential to life - **Proverbs 29:18**

Poor vision weakens and kills the Church many places

Those who dream dreams & make come true not been asleep

### **Value Of Activity**

Vision alone will not get job done - Jacob was a man of action - **Genesis 42:2**

His sons were not, they only looked at one another

However, Jacob needed help to make his vision work

Joseph also a man of vision and action **Genesis 41** - He became great but not without help; No one has ever invented a substitute for work

Leadership in congregation must have vision and help to put their plans into action - **Ephesians 4:11-13**

### **Needs Are Pressing**

World needs evangelizing (and it starts next door) - **Mark 16:15-16**

Jesus will be with us; With the Lord as our partner we can't go bankrupt; New converts need teaching & encouraging - **Matthew 28:19-20**

Not full grown when born - Must grow or die - **1Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14**

The fallen need restoring - **Galatians 6:1**

Sick need caring for - Strangers need visiting - **Matthew 25:35-36**

Truth needs contending for - **Jude 3; Psalms 119:104**

### **Are We Just Staring At Each Other?**

So much to do and need leadership with vision to see what needs be done and are willing to work to see that this work gets done

There are no leaders who can do all the work by themselves, they must have help to accomplish what needs to be done

Jerry Henderson