

RaYBaSH's Torah Thoughts For Kids
Parashah #11: Vayigash "And Came Near"
B'reshit (Genesis) Gen. 44:18-47:27
By: Yehudah ben Shomeyr

Gen. 45:1-14 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not: And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast: And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty. And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you. And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither. And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

Have you ever put on “Billy Bob Teeth” or “Coke bottle glasses” or even a fake mustache and trick someone you know, even for a split second? It can be fun. On the outside you look like a stranger, but on the inside you are the same person you have always been.

This is kind of what it is like with Yeshua whom the Christians call Jesus. He is a Jew like all His relatives and HE has never changed. But modern day Christians have removed His kippah, gave him long hair, traded His dark olive skin for a white complexion, exchanged his Tallit for a toga and changed His name from Yeshua to Jesus. So now, to the Jew, Yeshua looks like a stranger whom they say couldn't possibly be their Messiah.

Yosef (Joseph) too, in our Torah Portion looked like an Egyptian with a smooth shaven face and Egyptian clothes. His brothers didn't even recognize him. But just as Yosef eventually revealed himself to his brothers:

“Hey Guys, it's me! Your little brother Yosef!”

They were shocked and thought, “This couldn't possibly be our little brother!

So too one day this Christian Jesus will begin to take off His gentile appearance. How will He do this? By us showing our Jewish brothers that it really is the Messiah inside the Gentile costume.

The Christian of today need to see by our example that the Torah (The Law) like Rav Sha'ul (Apostle Paul) said is “holy and righteous.”

For just as Yeshua has been disguised to look like a Gentile, the Torah has been disguised to look like a prison guard, when in reality it's more like rules to a board game designed so everyone can have fun.

We have a big job as Messianic/Nazarene Jews, we need to reveal to our Jewish brothers who “Jesus” really is and to the Christians what the Torah is really all about.

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

--Yehudah ben Shomeyr