

## OUR ROYAL BROTHER

Gen. 42:8: "And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew him not."

**INTRODUCTION:** "I am of Royalty!" My mother is descendant of King Henry VIII, red hair and all. Are you of Royalty?

There is a story in the Old Testament about a family that didn't know that there was Royalty in their blood line. I am sure that you remember them. Remember the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors? Let's go back and study that story again.

### I. JOSEPH NEW HIS BROTHERS BUT THEY KNEW HIM NOT

1. Discuss the story of Joseph being sold into slavery.
2. Discuss the account of their being reunited:
  - Need drove them into Egypt
  - They did not recognize the Governor of Egypt as being their brother Joseph, for they thought he was dead..(because of their sin).
  - They recognized him as ruler, judge over them.
  - Joseph immediately recognized them as his brothers.
  - After a while he revealed himself to them and told them all was forgiven.
  - He brought all his family into Egypt and gave them a land of their own and took care of them until he died.
3. The Old Testament stories were shadows of that which was to come. This is a beautiful parallel of Joseph and his family and Jesus and His family.

### II. JESUS KNEW US LONG BEFORE WE EVER KNEW HIM

1. Before we were ever born we were in His mind and heart.
2. Even while we were enemies (either for or against Him) to Him, He knew us.
3. In our daily walk in life, through all we have gone through, He has known every moment.
4. When we finally acknowledged Him as being, it was as Judge and Ruler over us. However, He viewed us not as subjects but as people He wanted in His Royal family.

### III. OUR SIN AND SATAN BLINDED US TO JESUS, OUR ROYAL BROTHER

1. We kept our hearts from Him and refused Him entrance into our lives..(too busy, not now, etc.)
2. We refused to trust His promises. (for women and children)
3. We "rebelled" against Him and gave Him no praise or honor. (don't need anybody)
4. His royal righteousness blazed forth and we could not see Him.
5. Heaven came down to earth and we did not grasp it. (Just another Christmas story).

#### IV. HAVING NOW RECOGNIZED HIM, WE REJOICE BECAUSE WE ARE NOW ALSO OF ROYALTY

1. Those days of blindness to Him are now over.
2. We know little of our Royal Brother compared to what He knows of us.
3. We study about Him and talk with Him every day, learning more and more, but He knows us completely.
4. We shall never know Him completely, but that doesn't change His feelings about us.
5. "*The Lord knoweth them that are His.*" is as true for that prodigal brother or sister who is eating at the pig's trough as it is for those who are sitting at His Royal table.

#### CONCLUSION

1. Only by God's grace is it that the ignorance and blindness has been on our side and not His, for we would have no hope.
2. Our Royal Brother will never say to us, "*depart from me, I never knew you.*" But will one day say our names and introduce us in Heaven as His brothers and sisters.
3. Like the brothers of Joseph, we also have cause to rejoice for we, too have been found, saved, and made ROYAL.
4. The family of Joseph did absolutely nothing to become members of a Royal family. Neither have we. As Joseph did it all for his family, so Jesus has done it for us.
5. Whosoever can become a part of Jesus' Royal family. This includes everyone in this room. Are you already a member? If not, He invites you to become a part of His family. Will you allow Him to? You can only believe in Him and trust Him to do what He says He will do.