

A SECRET GUEST
Christmas Party Series, Part 2
December 10, 2023

People _____

_____ are invited to the party

“³Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. ⁴But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn’t say a kind word to him.” Genesis 37:3-4

“¹⁸When Joseph’s brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. ¹⁹‘Here comes the dreamer!’ they said. ²⁰‘Come on, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, “A wild animal has eaten him.” Then we’ll see what becomes of his dreams!’ ²¹But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph’s rescue. ‘Let’s not kill him,’ he said. ²²‘Why should we shed any blood? Let’s just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he’ll die without our laying a hand on him.’ Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father. ²³So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. ²⁴Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders taking a load of gum, balm, and aromatic resin from Gilead down to Egypt. ²⁶Judah said to his brothers, ‘What will we gain by killing our brother? His blood would just give us a guilty conscience. ²⁷Instead of hurting him, let’s sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother - our own flesh and blood!’ And his brothers agreed. ²⁸So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph’s brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.” Genesis 37:18-28

“³¹Then the brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. ³²They sent the beautiful robe to their father with this message: ‘Look at what we found. Doesn't this robe belong to your son?’ ³³Their father recognized it immediately. ‘Yes,’ he said, ‘it is my son's robe. A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph has clearly been torn to pieces!’ ³⁴Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time. ³⁵His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. ‘I will go to my grave mourning for my son,’ he would say, and then he would weep.” Genesis 37: 31-35

People with a secret _____

People with a secret _____

“¹⁸On the third day Joseph said to them, ‘I am a God-fearing man. If you do as I say, you will live. ¹⁹If you really are honest men, choose one of your brothers to remain in prison. The rest of you may go home with grain for your starving families. ²⁰But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. This will prove that you are telling the truth, and you will not die.’ To this they agreed. ²¹Speaking 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!” Genesis 42:18-22

“⁴‘Please, come closer,’ he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, ‘I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. ⁵But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. ⁶This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. ⁸So it was God who sent me here, not you!’”

Genesis 45:4-8