

Dr. Jeff Hensley Pastor Kings Mountain Baptist Church

An old Jewish story tells of a man who had two sons, and when the time came for this man to die, he called his sons together and told them that he was ready to disperse his land between them. To the older son he gave the harder land, because he would know how to work it. To the younger son he gave the bottom land, the best land, because he hadn't been with the father as long and did not know how to farm as well. And then he told them to remember that they were his sons and brothers always, and always to stay to-

MEDITATION

gether in heart even if they were separated in life and circumstances. Soon after he died, and the two sons took their land and began their

The older son never married. He worked the poorer land, but did very well on it. The younger son married and had many children. He worked the bottom land and sometimes did well, but he needed everything to care for his family. Many years went by, and the brothers did not see each other, so involved were they with their separate

One night the older son was counting wheat sheaves in his barn and wondered how his younger brother was doing. "My younger brother has so many mouths to feed," he thought, "and I've had a good harvest. I think I'll bring him some sheaves tonight and just leave them in his barn." So he counted out twelve sheaves of wheat and took them to his brother's barn.

Meanwhile, the younger brother was thinking about his older brother: "My brother never married and he must be lonely without a wife and children. My harvest has been especially good this year, so I think I'll take some sheaves of wheat over to him." So he counted out twelve sheaves and slipped over in the darkness and left them in his brother's barn.

The next morning they were both counting their sheaves and couldn't figure out how they had given away twelve and yet still had the same number as before. They decided to bring more the next night, so that night they counted out twelve more and did the same as the night before. Again the next morning, they found that they still had just as many sheaves as before. So once more they counted out twelve sheaves as a gift, but this last night there was a full moon, so the brothers met each other at the border of their lands.

When they realized what each other was doing, they fell into each other's arms weeping, remembering their father and praising God, and they renewed their promise not to

forget each other in their hearts. Jewish tradition says that the spot where those brothers met was the spot where the elders of Israel chose to build the Temple in

Jerusalem, for wherever brothers - or sisters, families, neighbors, or even nations meet sincerely and respectfully is holy ground and God is glorified.



Fellowship & Faith

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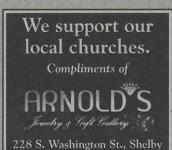
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