

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #88

Genesis 43:1-34

In the book of Hosea, there is one verse that sets forth a remarkable prophetic prediction - “I will go away and return to My place **until they acknowledge their guilt** and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me” (Hosea 5:15). God will not bless Israel or anyone until they acknowledge their guilt.

Some twenty plus years before Genesis 43, Joseph’s brothers sold him as a slave. For a while it looked like they had committed the perfect crime, but God is about to track them down. God sent this famine and this famine would force these brothers to go to Egypt and face Joseph. Chapter 43 proves that Joseph’s brothers have truly changed, they have truly repented and it is this fact that will lead to great reconciliation.

WHEN WE HAVE DONE SOMETHING WRONG IN THE PAST AND HAVE TRULY REPENTED OF IT, WE MAY EXPECT THAT GOD, IN HIS GRACE, WILL NOT ONLY FORGIVE US BUT LEAD US TO WONDERFUL NEW LEVELS OF BLESSING.

KEY POINT #1 - Those who have truly repented will be willing to submit to the demands of godly leadership, no matter what the personal sacrifice or cost. 43:1-15

Joseph’s brothers did not know his identity but they knew he feared God (42:18) and that God was orchestrating all of the negative things that happened to them because of what they had done to Joseph (42:21-22, 28).

(Observation #1) - The famine does continue. 43:1-2

Jacob and his family would be in famine time until they personally got things straightened out with Joseph. God’s people who have done wrong will be in a famine until they do right.

(Observation #2) - The family is changed. 43:3-10

Israel could not figure out why they had told Joseph about Benjamin, which he considered to be a “bad” thing (43:6), which means he thought it was an evil thing to do (*Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 773). Judah was made of different timber than Reuben. Reuben offered his two sons to Jacob if something bad happened to Benjamin (42:37), but Judah offered himself (43:9). People who are trustworthy are willing to put themselves on the line. They don’t offer the services of others, they offer themselves.

(Observation #3) - The father does consent. 43:11-15

Israel trusted Judah more than the others. Reuben had been involved in incest (35:22); Simeon (who was in jail) and Levi were ruthless (34:25), but Judah was different. Judah was somewhat innocent of the episode with Joseph (37:26), and even in his own lustful sin and failure, he was an honest man of integrity (38:26).

KEY POINT #2 - Those who make restitution will see God begin to bless in remarkable ways. 43:16-25

When Joseph's brothers were first brought to his home they were afraid (43:18), thinking this had to do with the money found in their sacks. But the house manager informed them that it was all a blessing to them from God (43:23). Those who want God's blessings stop covering.

KEY POINT #3 - Those who are truly repentant will remain faithful to not make the same mistake ever again. 43:26-34

Genesis 43:26 is a fulfillment of the Word of God. At one time these brothers hated and envied Joseph because he told them the Word of God (Genesis 37:8, 11) and now they were bowing before him.

Only two boys had been born to Rachel - Joseph and Benjamin (35:24), and when Joseph saw Benjamin, he pronounced a blessing upon him and then sought out a place to weep (43:29-30). I am certain there are times when God desires to make His will known to His family, but because of their cover-up of their sin, He cannot do anything but weep.

What baffled the brothers was the seating arrangement. They were astonished by the fact that they were seated in the precise order of their age (43:33). Even though they did not know Joseph, he intimately knew them. Jesus Christ knows each of us intimately. He knows our physical and spiritual age. No one can fool Him. He longs to fellowship and bless His people - but they must deal with sin.

The final verse of this chapter is critical because it informs us that Joseph gave Benjamin five times as much as the others. He intentionally shows favoritism to him because he is Rachel's son and because he wants to see the response of his brothers.

Over twenty years before, Joseph had been favored by his father, Israel (37:3). These same brothers eating with him were envious and hateful. Now Joseph was putting them to the same test. He was purposely favoring Benjamin but carefully notice their reaction is not envy or hate, **they are happy**.

- 1) Jesus Christ knows us intimately and longs for us to get past sins resolved.
- 2) When we are truly repentant, we will be willing to submit to godly leadership.
- 3) The moment we begin to do what is right, wonderful things of God begin to happen.
- 4) God will lead those repentant to new levels of blessing after true repentance.

God is longing for people to acknowledge their guilt and get cleaned up from it. He longs to bless His people. Don't run from your sin, or hide in it - face it, confess it, turn from it and you'll turn right into the blessings of God.