

## Genesis 43

### Distress Meets Kindness

*Severe conditions ...*

#### I. Complications at Home

- A. Joseph's Demands
- B. The Family Quandary
- C. Hints of Change
- D. Uneasy Solution

#### II. Confusion in Egypt

- A. A Kind Reception
- B. Fear and Perplexity
- C. A Small Offering

#### III. Secret Reunion

- A. Family Concerns
- B. Veiled Irony
- C. Brotherly Compassion
- D. Mystified and Merry

#### Application: Compelling Love

- A. Bewildered Man
- B. The Unknown God
- C. Unveiled

*... abundant mercy.*

#### **Children, Listen ...**

1. Why did Jacob's sons have to go back to Egypt?
2. Why didn't Jacob want his youngest Son Benjamin to go with them?
3. How did Joseph treat the brothers?
4. Did he treat Benjamin differently? How so?
5. God provides for His creation, but do all people honor and thank Him it?

## Led to Mercy

The anxiety and tension in Jacob's family has intensified and their life predicament has become quite complicated. They have been brought to the point where their only option is to return to Egypt and seek the mercy of Joseph while meeting the demands he imposed on them on their last visit to him. Conditions are severe, fear levels are rising and what the outcome of their second encounter with Joseph will be is unnervingly uncertain. But all the perplexing factors this family is dealing with are being used to lead them just where they need to be – at the feet of Joseph with the hopes that he will show them undeserved mercy. The men are rightly amazed when he does just that. They are met with kindness in abundance, and yet they don't even know the true identity of their benefactor.

Of course God is above all this and directing thing according to His goodness and wisdom.

Fallen man lives in a generally perplexed state of being and lives his life in a desperate state whether they are fully aware of it or not. This is so because they suppress the knowledge of God and don't honor Him or thank Him even though "He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." Some may seem to be quite near and yet are unaware of the identity of the very one who provides for them. On the other hand the same type of fears, anxieties and complications of life are often the very instruments God uses to draw broken sinners to Himself. In grace we are led to our Creator, provider and redeemer where we cast our care upon Him and receive peace and provision for all of our needs. With the veil of ignorance lifted through the ministry of the Holy Spirit we are no longer blind to His identity as we see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ and give praise to the God who provides for us out of the abundance of His goodness.