



Lesson 34

FAMINE AND FAMILY REUNION – PART 2

Story Elements

- **TEXT:** Gen. 43:1-46:7
- **Setting:** circa 1745 B.C. in Egypt.
- **Main Characters:** God, Joseph, Jacob, and his sons
- **Plot:** Joseph conceals his identity
- from his brothers who have traveled to Egypt in search of food.
- **Key word(s):** “So now it was not you that sent me hither, but ___...” (45:8)
- **Climax:** *to be continued...*

Judah’s Pledge

- 1) (43:1-5) As the famine continued to ravage the region, the supplies that Jacob’s sons had retrieved from Egypt dwindled to nothing. Jacob told told, “____ _____, buy us a little food,” but Judah protested that the journey could not be made without Benjamin in tow as per the governor’s (Joseph’s) demand.
- 2) (43:6-10) As Jacob lamented their sorry situation, Judah pledged his life for Benjamin’s saying, “I will be _____ for him...if I bring him not unto thee...then let me bear the blame for ever.”
- 3) (43:11-14) Jacob accepted Judah’s suggestions and told his sons to take gifts and double money with them to gain the governor’s favor. Jacob proclaimed, “God Almighty give you mercy before the man...” Matthew Henry notes, “Jacob had formerly turned an angry brother into a kind one with a _____ and a prayer; and here he betakes himself to the same tried method, and it sped well.”¹

Joseph’s Dinner

- 4) (43:15-17) Arriving in Egypt, Jacob’s sons came before Joseph; when Joseph saw his younger brother Benjamin, he instructed his servant to prepare _____.
- 5) (43:18-23) Fearing punishment because of the money they unknowingly took home during the previous trip, the brothers sheepishly explained to the steward the mishap. The steward reassured them, saying, “Your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money.” As further evidence of well-wishes, _____ was released from his confinement and reunited with his brothers.
- 6) (43:26-30) When Joseph arrived for dinner, the brothers gave him their gift and were warmly received. Seeing his younger brother again caused Joseph to be so overcome with emotion that he hastily left the room to weep in private.
- 7) (43:31-34) Returning to his guests, they all feasted merrily. Joseph continued to conceal his identity. Notice:

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.

- a) He persisted in probing his brothers' hearts by lavishing Benjamin with special attention, hoping thereby to incite their latent bitterness and _____.
- b) Verse 33 states that "the men marveled one at another." What were they amazed about? _____.

Judah's Sacrifice

- 8) (44:1-5) Joseph devised one more test for his brothers: the next day before they left, their sacks were filled with grain, their money again returned, and this time Joseph's chalice was hidden in Benjamin's sack. Later, when the steward was sent to catch up with them, he would put on as though they had purposefully stolen Joseph's "cup of divination."² What was Joseph trying to accomplish with this elaborate ruse? _____.
- 9) (44:6-13) The steward caught up with them and accused them of theft. The brothers insisted on their innocence and vowed to pay the penalty if they were proven guilty. Of course, the planted evidence was found, and they all returned to the city expecting heavy punishment.
- 10) (45:14-17) Joseph rebuked his brothers for the alleged stealing and threatened to keep the culprit as a _____.
- 11) (45:18-34) Judah intervened and fulfilled the pledge he had made to his father Jacob: he would take the blame so Benjamin could return home.

Application

- 12) Judah's insistence on taking Benjamin down to Egypt is a wonderful picture of the gospel: if we would stand before God without fear of wrath, we must be found to have his _____ in our hearts.
- 13) (44:16) The brothers' consciences still bled like an open wound, for when they were accused of a crime they did not commit, they took it as _____ punishing them for sins they did commit.
- 14) Judah's fulfillment of his pledge pictures Christ's intercession for sinners: he became our _____, and he took our punishment.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

Answer Key

Key word(s): God | 1) Go again | 2) surety | 3) present | 4) dinner | 5) Simeon | 7) a) resentment; b) That Joseph knew their birth orders | 8) He wanted to see if his brothers would protect Benjamin or "throw him under the bus" | 10) servant | 12) Son | 13) God | 14) surety

² Joseph did not believe the cup gave him powers of divination – this was all a show to conceal his identity. Joseph believed that God was responsible for secret knowledge. (cf. 40:8)