



## Lesson 34

### Famine and Family Reunion – Part 2

#### Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>TEXT:</b> Gen. 43:1-44:34</li><li>• <b>Setting:</b> circa 1745 B.C. in Egypt.</li><li>• <b>Main Characters:</b> God, Joseph, Jacob, and his sons</li><li>• <b>Plot:</b> Joseph conceals his identity from his</li></ul> | <p>brothers who have traveled to Egypt in search of food.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Key word(s):</b> “So now it was not you that sent me hither, but _____ ...” (45:8)</li><li>• <b>Climax:</b> <i>to be continued...</i></li></ul> |
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#### Judah’s Pledge

- 1) (43:1-5) As the famine continued to ravage the region, the supplies that Jacob’s sons brought from Egypt dwindled to nothing. Jacob told his sons, “Go again, buy us a little food,” but Judah protested that the journey could not be made without Benjamin as per the governor’s (Joseph’s) demand.
  - a) (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.”
  - b) (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. Matthew Henry notes, “Jacob had formerly turned an angry brother into a kind one with a present and a \_\_\_\_\_; and here he betakes himself to the same tried method, and it sped well.”<sup>1</sup>

#### Joseph’s Dinner

- 2) (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 dinner.
  - a) (43:18-23) Fearing punishment because of the accidental theft 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 another goodwill gesture, \_\_\_\_\_ was released from and reunited with his brothers.
  - b) (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 \_\_\_\_\_ in private.
- 3) (43:31-34) Returning to his guests, they all feasted merrily. Joseph continued to conceal his identity. Notice:
  - a) He persisted in probing his brothers’ hearts by lavishing \_\_\_\_\_ with special attention, (perhaps testing them for latent bitterness and resentment.)
  - b) Verse 33 states that “the men marveled one at another.” What were they amazed about? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Judah’s Sacrifice

- 4) (44:1-5) Joseph devised one more test:

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

- a) the next day before his brothers left, their sacks were filled with grain, their money again returned, and this time Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_ was hidden in Benjamin's sack.
- b) Later, when the steward was sent to catch up to them, he would put on as though they had purposefully stolen Joseph's "cup of divination."<sup>2</sup> What was Joseph trying to accomplish with this elaborate ruse? \_\_\_\_\_
- c) (44:6-13) When 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 \_\_\_\_\_.
- d) (44:14-17) Joseph rebuked his brothers for the alleged stealing and threatened to keep the culprit as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- e) (44:18-34) Judah intervened and fulfilled the pledge he had made to his father Jacob: he would take the blame so Benjamin could return home.

## Application

- 5) Joseph's insistence on bringing 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 - just as Jacob's sons found mercy with Benjamin in their caravan.
- 6) (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 God \_\_\_\_\_ them for sins they did commit.
- 7) Judah's fulfillment of his pledge pictures Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ for sinners: he became our surety, 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.*

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): "God" • 1) a) surety; b) prayer • 2) a) Simeon; b) weep • 3) a) Benjamin; b) That Joseph knew their birth orders • 4) a) chalice; b) He wanted to see if the brothers would protect young Benjamin; c) punishment; d) servant • 5) Son • 6) punishing • 7) intercession

**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

<sup>2</sup> 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)