

## **Genesis 42-43**

### **Worldview: God is Merciful**

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:4-7)

#### **Part 1: Bowing Sheaves 42:1-6**

1. Jacob sends his sons to buy grain in Egypt.
2. He doesn't send Benjamin.
3. Joseph's brothers appear before him – and bow themselves before him with their faces to the ground.

#### **Questions:**

1. **Discuss the theme of salvation from verse 2**
2. **What is the significance of Jacob not sending Benjamin? What seems different in the hearts of Joseph's brothers?**
3. **Does God foreknow the future because he foresees what will happen or does he foreknow the future because he has decreed it? For future study, see Chapter 3 of Charleston Confession and supporting verses**

#### **Part 2: Conviction of Sin 42:7-24**

1. Joseph recognizes his brothers but treats them like strangers speaking roughly to them.
2. He remembers his dreams about them and “accuses” them of being spies.
3. His pressuring of them cause them to bring up their family as proof they are not spies – they are twelve brothers – the youngest is with his father and one is no more.
4. Joseph puts them to the test, initially requiring that all but one of them stay until the youngest brother is brought to him.
5. After keeping them in custody for three days, he agrees to allow all but one of them to return to bring Benjamin. He tells them: “Do this and you will live, for I fear God”
6. The brothers discuss their guilt concerning Joseph and do not realize he understands their language.
7. Hearing their confession – he goes away weeping.
8. He takes Simeon and binds him before their eyes.

#### **Questions:**

1. **Why the deception? Why doesn't Joseph just reveal who he is?**
2. **Which brother are you?**
3. **Discuss how the mercy of God is at work here.**

#### **Part 3: Breaking the News to Israel 42:25-38**

1. Joseph orders that their bags be filled with grain, they be given provisions for the journey, and that their money be replaced in their sacks.
2. Along the journey back, they discover money left in one of the brothers' sacks saying, “What is this that God has done to us?”
3. They arrive home and update Jacob on the encounter.
4. They discover money in all their sacks and are afraid.

5. Jacob: “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin.”
6. Reuben tells his father to kill his two sons if he does not bring Benjamin back safely, but Jacob refuses to send him: “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left.”

**Questions:**

1. **Why did Joseph order the money returned to his brothers?**
2. **In speaking to Joseph about their brothers they mention Benjamin first (the youngest) and Joseph second (the one who is no more). In speaking to Jacob about the encounter, they switch the order. What is the significance of this?**
3. **How is Benjamin “the only one left”?**

**Part 4: May God Almighty Grant You Mercy Before the Man 43:1-14**

1. When they run out of grain again, Jacob orders his sons back to Egypt.
2. Judah refuses unless Jacob agrees to send Benjamin.
3. Jacob asks why they told the man they had another brother.
4. Judah offers to be a pledge to Benjamin’s safety – “send the boy with me that we may live and not die”
5. Jacob agrees but tells him to take some of the choice fruits of the land as a gift and take double the money. “May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin.”

**Questions:**

1. **In chapter 42, what were Jacob’s words when he sent his sons to Egypt to buy food? What are Judah’s in this passage concerning the requirement of taking Benjamin?**
2. **Discuss the mercy of God throughout chapters 42-43.**

**Part 5: Feast for the Guilty 43:15-34**

1. They return to Egypt with Benjamin.
2. Joseph orders his steward to prepare a feast.
3. The brothers are brought to Joseph’s house, but they fear it is because Joseph thinks they left without paying for the grain the first time.
4. When they tell their story to the steward, his reply is “Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money.”
5. Simeon is returned; the brothers are given water, they wash their feet, their donkeys are given food.
6. When Joseph arrives, they bow down and present their gift to him.
7. When Joseph sees Benjamin, he must leave the room because of his compassion for his brother. He returns once his weeping is under control and he has washed his face.
8. Three sections of dining are set up: Joseph, the Hebrews, the Egyptians
9. The brothers are seated in order of birthright – oldest to youngest.
10. Benjamin is given 5 times as much as the other brothers.

**Questions:**

1. **What are the brothers’ reactions to Benjamin receiving 5 times as much as they? Is this significant? Why or why not?**
2. **How is Joseph’s treatment of his brothers like God’s treatment of us in Christ?**