

Genesis 44-45

Worldview: God is Merciful Part 2

From Last Lesson: Chapter 43

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?**

Continuing with Today's Lesson: Chapters 44-45

Part 1: The Tearing of Clothes 44:1-13

1. Joseph orders his steward to fill the men's sacks with food and money – and his silver cup in the sack of the youngest.
2. Soon after they depart, Joseph sends his steward to confront them over the "stolen" cup.
3. Knowing they are innocent of this crime, they quickly pledge "whichever of your servants is found with it shall die, and we also will be my lord's servants."

4. The steward responds: “Let it be as you say: he who is found with it shall be my servant, and the rest of you shall be innocent.”
5. The cup is found in Benjamin’s sack, and they tore their clothes.

Questions:

1. **Why does Joseph continue this approach to dealing with his brothers?**
2. **How does the steward soften the oath of the brothers?**
3. **What is the significance of the brothers tearing their clothes?**

Part 2: God Has Found Out the Guilt of Your Servants 44:14-34

1. Upon Joseph confronting the brothers, Judah declares: “What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how can we clear ourselves? God has found out the guilt of your servants.”
2. Joseph suggests that only Benjamin should be his servant as he was the one with the cup.
3. Judah appeals to Joseph to hear him out – for Joseph is like Pharaoh himself.
4. Judah tells him that Jacob will die if Joseph keeps Benjamin and offers himself as a substitute.

Questions:

1. **In verse 16, what does Judah mean when he says “God has found out the guilt of your servants”? See Genesis 42:21**
2. **What is the significance of Judah’s statement: “You are like Pharaoh himself”?**
3. **How would you describe Judah’s offer to Joseph in verse 33?**

Part 3: God’s Purpose Revealed 45:1-23

1. Upon hearing Judah’s story, Joseph weeps aloud and sends everyone away except his brothers.
2. He tells them who he is and God’s purpose in sending him to Egypt.
3. He sends his brothers home to bring their father and family back and gives them the land of Goshen to dwell in.
4. He embraces Benjamin and then all his brothers.
5. When Pharaoh learns of the report of Joseph’s brothers coming it please him, and Pharaoh responds by promising Joseph the best of the land of Egypt.
6. Joseph gave all his brothers a change of clothes, but he gave Benjamin 300 shekels of silver and five changes of clothes.

Questions:

1. **Who was responsible for Joseph ending up in Egypt?**
2. **According to Joseph, why did God send him to Egypt? See 45:6-8**
3. **For how much was Joseph sold into slavery? Contrast that with what Joseph gave to Benjamin.**

Part 4: A Numb Heart Revived 45:24-28

1. The brothers return to Canaan and tell their story to Jacob.
2. Jacob’s heart became numb, for he did not believe them.
3. After he heard their words and saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, his spirit was revived and Jacob agrees to go see Joseph.

Questions:

1. **How is Jacob’s numb heart like that of an unbeliever?**
2. **How is Jacob’s revived spirit like that of a believer?**

Next Week: Genesis 46-48