

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
GENESIS 43:15-23

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jacob and his children debated about going back to Egypt.
 - a) **GENESIS 43.1,2:** They had eaten the grain that was brought back from Egypt.
 - b) **GENESIS 43.3:** *"You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you."*
 - c) **GENESIS 43.8,9:** Judah promises to protect Benjamin and bring him back safely.
 - d) **GENESIS 43.11,14:** *"If it must be so..."* Jacob defeatedly sent Benjamin.
2. The eleven sons of Israel take the present and head out to Egypt.
 - a) **GENESIS 43.15:** *"So then men took that present and Benjamin."* (Gen. 43.11-13)
 - b) **GENESIS 43.15:** *"And they took double the money in their hand."* (Gen. 42.35)
3. When a brother returns, it is a time of celebration.

I. A FEAST IS PREPARED

- A. Benjamin returns with the brothers to Joseph.
 1. **GENESIS 43.16:** *"When Joseph saw Benjamin with them"*
 - a) Was Benjamin born before Joseph was sold into slavery? (Gen. 43.29)
 - b) Jacob was in Hebron after Benjamin was born. (Gen. 35.27; 37.12-14)
 2. **GENESIS 43.16,17:** Joseph instructs his steward to prepare a meal. (cf. Gen. 39.4)
- B. There is great joy when a brother is reunited with his family.
 1. In the prodigal son parable, the father celebrated his son's return. (Luke 15.20-24)
 2. How did the apostle Paul react to his brethren's repentance?
 - a) The nature of the sin was severe. (1 Cor. 5.1)
 - b) Paul rejoiced over their repentance. (2 Cor. 7.8,9)
 3. How do you react to a brother seeking your forgiveness?
 - a) The prodigal son's brother was angry. (Luke 15.28-30)
 - b) **MATTHEW 18.15:** *"If your brother sins against you..."*

II. THE BROTHERS WERE SCARED

- A. The brothers were brought into Joseph's house.
 1. **GENESIS 43.18:** *"Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house..."* Their fear stems from their guilt. (Gen. 43.18; 42.21,28,35; Heb. 10.26,27)
 2. **GENESIS 43.19-22:** They pleaded their case to the steward. Were they innocent?
 3. **GENESIS 43.23:** *"Peace be with you, do not be afraid."*
 - a) Who was responsible for their money being returned? (cf. Gen. 42.28)
 - b) **GENESIS 43.23:** *"Then he brought Simeon out to them."*
- B. God is always eager to forgive and welcome us back into His heart.
 1. The day of judgment can be a day of great trepidation. (Heb. 10.26,27)
 - a) **ROMANS 11.19-22:** *"Do not be haughty, but fear."*
 - b) **HEBREWS 12.29:** *"For our God is a consuming fire."* (Heb. 12.21; Ex. 20.20)
 2. You do not need to fear as one who comes back to God. (Ps. 103.10-13; Isa. 55.6-9)
 - a) Why? Because God is compassionate. (Hos. 11.8)
 - b) Why? Because of the redemptive work of Jesus. (Heb. 2.14,15)
 3. Are we as welcoming to a fallen brother as God? (Luke 6.36)