Genesis Lesson 35 Chapter 43-44

Jacob's sons have made the grueling trip to Egypt to find food because of severe famine that has taken over the areas around Egypt including Canaan. They were brought before the governor in charge of food distribution where they were accused of being spies trying to take advantage of the country's vulnerable position. In order to prove their innocence, they were forced to leave their brother, Simeon, in prison in Egypt while they returned to retrieve their youngest brother Benjamin. Unfortunately, because of the prior loss of his favorite son Joseph, Jacob refused to allow them to return with Benjamin. But, God is still in charge, and He will bring about the circumstances that will accomplish what He promised to Abraham decades previous.

READ CHAPTER 43

1. *What convinced Jacob to finally send Benjamin to Egypt?*

2. *In what ways do you see the element of fear ruling Jacob's thinking and actions?*

3. *How does fear impact your thinking and actions at times?*

4. *Do you see Jacob's declaration in vs. 14 as a statement of faith or of desperation?*

5. *Is there a difference between actually trusting God with a situation or just running out of options? How would you determine the difference?*

6. *How did the events in Egypt play out differently than the brothers expected?*

READ CHAPTER 44

When conditions once again become severe in the need for food, Jacob allows the brothers to return to Egypt with their brother, Benjamin. When the governor, who unbeknownst to them is their brother Joseph, sees Benjamin, he is moved to tears. He invites them to dinner, seats them in birth order, and lavishes the younger brother with portions five times that of the other brothers. Though the other siblings are amazed at this, they are unaware of who their host's true identity.

7. *Do you think that Joseph is aware of God's leading in the testing of his brothers, or is he simply relying on his own wisdom?*

8. *Do you think that Judah's admission of guilt in vs. 16 reveals that he thinks Benjamin is actually guilty of stealing the cup, or that he has simply given up trying to explain and is resolute to their condemnation?*

9. *Why would the brothers keep insisting that Benjamin's only brother is dead?*

10. *What is the irony between Genesis 44:33-34 and Genesis 37:26-28?*

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Prayer requests:

Group time notes: