

## INVITED INTO JOSEPH'S HOME Genesis 43

### INTRODUCTION

In the midst of famine, Egypt is the only nation with surplus grain. Joseph oversees the distribution (sale) of grain, as men from all countries are coming to buy. He already sold grain to his brothers from Canaan once, but did not reveal himself to them. He has learned about his family – father Jacob is still alive, and brother Benjamin is back in Canaan too. Holding Simeon in prison, Jacob told them that they could not return without Benjamin. Needing grain again, the brothers now return and receive **An Invitation To Joseph's Home**.

### DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 43. This chapter records the return of Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy grain. They really have no idea what lies ahead. Our study will reveal how Joseph's brothers have changed attitudes from many years ago when they sold Joseph into slavery. Joseph's heart is also revealed as his brothers are given **An Invitation To Joseph's Home**. We will be reminded of Jesus. *Selah*

*Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

I. Genesis 42:29-43:7. Family squabbles. They need more grain to survive, but can't return to Egypt unless Benjamin is with them. Jacob's family is in a real bind. Note how Judah is stepping up. Joseph longs for a family reunion.

II. Genesis 43:8-10. Judah is sensitive to Jacob. More than his brothers, Judah has changed. He is not jealous that Benjamin is Jacob's favorite. Jealousy is a wicked emotion born out of insecurity or fear that others are of more value. **Proverbs 27:4, James 3:16.** Judah actually offers his own life as a guarantee that Benjamin will be safe. Jesus came from Judah. *Selah*

III. Genesis 43:11-14. Jacob sends a gift. Jacob is not trying to butter "the man" up, but being respectful. Hoping to buy more grain, Jacob knows he is not in control. He trusts in God to solve this bind they are in, yet doesn't seem to have much faith.

IV. Genesis 43:15-18. Joseph's brothers are paranoid. Bringing the present from Jacob with extra money to buy more grain, the fearful brothers will be brought into Joseph's house. Guilt ridden and suspicious, they think Joseph will enslave them.

V. Genesis 43:19-23. Now what's going on? Told that God had given them the treasure in their sacks from their first trip, can you see how Joseph was providing for his family even when they had no idea? Simeon is restored. Nothing should keep us away from returning to our Lord! This unnamed steward gave God the glory. "Peace be with you, do not be afraid".

VI. Genesis 43:24-30. Benjamin's presence impacts Joseph. Joseph observes carefully, as his brothers bow down before him in humility and answer his questions. He wants to know more about his family. Seeing Benjamin he is overcome with emotion. Joseph yearns for restoration with his long lost brother. **Jeremiah 31:18-21, Hosea 11:8, Philipians 1:8**

VII. Genesis 43:31-34. Brothers pass the final test. Seated in order from eldest to youngest (wonder what they were thinking), Joseph now serves his brothers food. Giving Benjamin five times as much, how will the brothers react? They passed the test – not jealous, but merry with him. They are truly different! In his home, Joseph has fellowship with his brothers. *Selah*

Jesus invites us into a closer relationship with Him. Fellowship with God is His greatest gift, and our life's most important activity.

**"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:9**

**CONSIDER .....** Although his brothers thought he was against them, they received **An Invitation To Joseph's Home**.

- o Jesus welcomes you – do not stay away, being fearful or distant. Welcome Him. **Luke 10:38-39, Luke 19:5**
- o Jesus welcomes you – do not just be active doing good things. Not like Martha. **Luke 10:40-41**
- o Jesus welcomes you – choose fellowship over activity. Like Mary. **Luke 10:42**

**"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." James 4:8a.**

### PRAY .....

- o that the Lord would show you any area in your life that you are avoiding him out of fear or guilt.
- o that you would have a heart to engage in more fellowship, first with the Lord, then with the saints.
- o for the community to engage in the Puerto Rico outreach with us.
- o that you would have the heart of Joseph – for reconciliation and fellowship.
- o for our missionaries: Paul & Melanie Billings, Denny Barger, Matt Fantley, Damir Srnc, . . .