

## Joseph Week 14

### They're Back Gen 43:1-15

*Gen 43:1 Now the famine was still severe in the land. 2 So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go back and buy us a little more food." 3 But Judah said to him, "The man warned us solemnly, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.' 4 If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you. 5 But if you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'" 6 Israel asked, "Why did you bring this trouble on me by telling the man you had another brother?" 7 They replied, "The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family. 'Is your father still living?' he asked us. 'Do you have another brother?' We simply answered his questions. How were we to know he would say, 'Bring your brother down here?'" 8 Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die. 9 I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life. 10 As it is, if we had not delayed, we could have gone and returned twice." 11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be, then do this: Put some of the best products of the land in your bags and take them down to the man as a gift--a little balm and a little honey, some spices and myrrh, some pistachio nuts and almonds. 12 Take double the amount of silver with you, for you must return the silver that was put back into the mouths of your sacks. Perhaps it was a mistake. 13 Take your brother also and go back to the man at once. 14 And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved." 15 So the men took the gifts and double the amount of silver, and Benjamin also. They hurried down to Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph.*

- Jacob \_\_\_\_\_ by checking out.
- Avoiding \_\_\_\_\_ is not always the best way to resolve a conflict.
- Maybe Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_ to leave the past in the past.
- God's plan for the nation of Israel depended upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of Joseph.
- My \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't have to be by my \_\_\_\_\_.
- You do not have the right to \_\_\_\_\_ what God has forgotten. Nor do you have the right to \_\_\_\_\_ what God remembers.
- Sin makes you what you are \_\_\_\_\_ from what God is.
- It is His mercy that allows us to move past what we have done to what we are \_\_\_\_\_.

*Prov 21:21 He who earnestly seeks after and craves righteousness, mercy, and loving-kindness will find life in addition to righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God) and honor.*

## Jacob's Dilemma/Judah's Pledge

- The \_\_\_\_\_ factor will always trump an I-don't-want-to-do-it attitude.

Notice three things about Judah's pledge:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the pledge
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the pledge  
I believe Judah may have a new \_\_\_\_\_ to follow God.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Judah's pledge.  
We cannot allow grief to supersede \_\_\_\_\_.

Why did Joseph test his brothers?

- Remember \_\_\_\_\_ builds a lonely house with space enough for only one.
- Sometimes Christian \_\_\_\_\_ is very limited.
- Forgiveness doesn't diminish justice, it \_\_\_\_\_ it to God.
- A superficial reunion with the brothers would be \_\_\_\_\_.  
Since superficial reconciliation produces superficial healing and superficial \_\_\_\_\_.
- Authentic reconciliation requires deep repentance and a personal \_\_\_\_\_.

Back in Egypt and the Plans of Joseph

- The \_\_\_\_\_ Feast

*16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my house, slaughter an animal and prepare dinner; they are to eat with me at noon"*

- Joseph's Response to the Family
  - Joseph methods verged on \_\_\_\_\_. He withheld critical information and manipulated the events.
  - He acted out the role of a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The biblical concept for this tactic is called \_\_\_\_\_.  
The Hebrew word for shrewdness is also translated as "\_\_\_\_\_"  
"\_\_\_\_\_" or "prudence", and can also mean "clever."
  - Joseph's shrewdness had the intended effect of testing his brothers' \_\_\_\_\_.

Two Final Truths

1. Joseph gained \_\_\_\_\_ by being shrewd.
2. He had to see if the brothers would be \_\_\_\_\_ of blessings.