

Joseph - Week 15

Back Again Gen 43:19-31

Gen 43:19 So they went up to Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house. 20 "Please, sir," they said, "we came down here the first time to buy food. 21 But at the place where we stopped for the night we opened our sacks and each of us found his silver--the exact weight--in the mouth of his sack. So we have brought it back with us. 22 We have also brought additional silver with us to buy food. We don't know who put our silver in our sacks." 23 "It's all right," he said. "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver." Then he brought Simeon out to them. 24 The steward took the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet and provided fodder for their donkeys. 25 They prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon, because they had heard that they were to eat there. 26 When Joseph came home, they presented to him the gifts they had brought into the house, and they bowed down before him to the ground. 27 He asked them how they were, and then he said, "How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still living?" 28 They replied, "Your servant our father is still alive and well." And they bowed low to pay him honor. 29 As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son." 30 Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there. 31 After he had washed his face, he came out and, controlling himself, said, "Serve the food."

- Last week we saw Joseph's reasons for being stern. He wanted to know if the brothers had the _____ to respond properly to Joseph's forgiveness.
- What you do with that time (the time that heals all wounds) will _____ if the wounds heal or keep festering.
- Manasseh: "God made me forget my _____."
- Genuine _____ is a profound gift of God because it reveals our deep need of repentance.
- We have a tendency to live _____ instead of vertically.

How do we, like the brothers, break these habits?

1. Recognize and admit our _____ mentality.
2. Set our hearts on a _____ focus until it begins to be a natural response.
3. Stay open and hold off on our _____ until God has spoken. God has unlimited _____, boundless _____, and continual love for us as we learn to adjust to Him and to life.

Steps to God's Plan of Healing:

1. The _____ Feast

2. The _____ Fear

3. The _____ Gift

4. The _____ Answer

In the same way, God responds:

- He takes our _____ away when we come to Him.
- He develops our _____ when we come to Him.

5. The _____ Formality

They gave presents and bowed low, a sign of humility and _____.

Notice this: Joseph acted with them as God acts with us. How?

God is never in a _____ and He never _____.

6. The _____ Feelings

7. The _____ Familiarity

Gen 43:33 The men had been seated before him in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest; and they looked at each other in astonishment.

Again, we see the finger of God's _____ conviction.

8. The _____ Favor

Benjamin's portion was five times as much as anyone else's.

So what is the test? Would the brothers, who were envious of Joseph (remember that is how he ended up a slave) still be _____ of Benjamin because he got the larger portion?

9. The _____ Fellowship

The brothers moved from being

- _____, to
- _____, to
- _____.