

Genesis 43-45

An Overview of Chapter 43

Eventually Israel has no choice but to send his sons back to Egypt for food. Judah promises that if anything happens to Benjamin he will bear the guilt. Israel decides to send gifts with his sons to Egypt in hopes that things go well.

When Joseph's brothers return to Egypt, they are invited to lunch. Simeon is released from the jail for the meal. When Joseph arrives, his half brothers and full brother Benjamin bow down to him. When Joseph sees Benjamin, he begins to cry and leaves the room. After cleaning himself up he returns and they eat a meal together, and Joseph gives them food from his table - giving Benjamin the most.

An overview of Chapter 44

When the brothers return home they are given food and money. In addition, Joseph's cup is hidden in Benjamin's sack so that Joseph can test his brother's again. Joseph sends his servants after his brothers and when they catch up they accuse them of stealing.

The brothers tell the servants that if they find the cup they can kill whoever has it, and the rest of them will become slaves. When they search the bags, they find the cup in Benjamin's bag. Joseph tells them that he will not kill Benjamin, but will keep him as a slave, but the rest of his brothers are free to go. Judah requests that he be enslaved instead of Benjamin after he explains the promise he made to his father.

An overview of Chapter 45

After hearing Judah's devotion to his father and brother Joseph cannot keep up the deception. He reveals himself to his brothers through tears. He explains to them that they do not need worry about what they did to him because God arranged for him to be in Egypt to save their lives.

Joseph instructs his brothers to return to their father and bring him back to live in Egypt. The pharaoh hears about the family reunion and offers to provide a very comfortable life for his friend's family.

When Israel hears his son is alive his spirits pick up and he agrees to go see him.

Reflection

Would you endanger one of your children to provide for your family? How is this similar to God's willingness to sacrifice his son? How is it different? When is it appropriate and inappropriate to show your emotions? Do you think Joseph was trying to make his brothers jealous by giving more food to Benjamin? What is the danger of making promises, even when you believe you are right? Are you willing to sacrifice your freedom for the sake of anyone else? Who? How has God preordained events of your life for your good or protection? Do you plan to take care of your parents in their old age?

For Further Study

Sacrificial love: Exodus 32:31-32, Romans 9:1-4, John 13:34

Jealousy: Proverbs 27:4, 1Corinthians 13:4-7