

GRACE ALL OVER THE PLACE
{From Famine to Feast - Genesis 43}

- John 1:16

A. BACK with the CLAN in CANAAN. (43)

1. **The famine persists. (43:1-2)** What can you learn from this? Does God know exactly how to deal with your stubbornness?
2. **The clan gathers to address the need. (43:3-14)**
 - Why does Judah speak up? {vs. 3-5}
 - How is Jacob / Israel viewing the situation? {vs. 6}
 - What do the brothers reply? {vs. 7}
 - How is Judah's offer different than Reuben's previous offer & what does this indicate about him? {vs. 8-10}
 - How does Jacob respond & react? {vs. 11-14}
 - What is the "Benjamin" in your life? Is God stripping you of your supports and excuses?

B. The RETURN to EGYPT. (43:15-35)

1. **The brother's return to Egypt with Benjamin. (43:15-24)**
 - Did the brothers comply with Israel's instructions or do it their way? {vs.15}
 - What instructions did Joseph give his steward and did he carry them out? {vs. 16-17}
 - Why were the men afraid and what did they assume? {vs. 18}
 - How do the brothers explain to the steward what happened and seek to make it right? {vs.19-22}
 - How did the steward surprisingly respond and what did this indicate? {vs. 23a}
 - What then happened to Simeon? Did he learn from his time in jail? {vs. 23b}
 - How is God's grace on display again in this scene? {vs. 24}

2. Joseph inquiries about his family & weeps. (43:25-30)

- What did the brothers present to Joseph? {vs. 25}
- How did the brothers bodily respond? Does this fulfill the dreams – 37:9? {vs.25-26}
- What does Joseph then inquire out of the ordinary? {vs. 27-28a}
- How did the brothers then respond? But what was different this time? {vs. 28b}
- What does Joseph say upon seeing his biological younger brother, Benjamin? What does this indicate? {vs. 29}
- How did Joseph respond emotionally? Is it OK for men to cry? {vs. 30}
- What can you learn from this?

3. Joseph and his brothers and others eat supper. {43:31-34}

- What was unusual for the supper seating arrangement?
- Why was it done this way and how would God use this in the future?
- What did this indicate about Joseph if they picked up the clue? {vs. 31-32}
- What was especially startling about the brothers' seating arrangement? {vs. 33}
- What happened next and what was true of Benjamin's portion of food? {vs. 34}
- What was this a test of and what did it express?
- What is ironic about all this?
- How does this chapter end? {vs. 35}
- What lessons can we learn from this about?
 - 1) Stubbornness?
 - 2) About God's loving providence and grace?
 - 3) About people changing – like Judah vs Simeon?
 - 4) About tests God designs or allows in our lives?
 - 5) About our guilt and God's grace?
 - 6) About forgiveness and keeping a tender heart toward the Lord and toward others?