

Study Guide for February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Blessed are the Peacemakers. Genesis 43.

Introduction: Have you ever been reconciled with someone you were formerly estranged from? What or who helped you get past the roadblocks and reestablish relationship?

I. Facing Reality in Canaan: (Gen. 43:1-14)

- A. What does Jacob tell his sons to do? (vs. 1-2) Why? What is Jacob's hope?
- B. Who speaks up for the brothers? (vs. 3-5) How would you describe his words?  
What does Judah suggest? What can we learn from his example? (I Tim. 5:1)
- C. What do Israel's words (vs. 6) reveal about his state of mind?
- D. How do the brothers (note "they" vs. 7) respond to their father?  
What offer does Judah make? (vs. 8-10) How is he trying to persuade Jacob?
- E. What does Jacob suggest? (vs. 11-12) What do his words (vs. 13-14) reveal?
- F. Consider the important role Judah plays in persuading Jacob. Is there a situation where God might be calling you to become a "peacemaker"? What can you do?

II. A Family Feast in Egypt: (Gen. 43:15-34)

- A. What can Joseph conclude seeing his brothers, including Benjamin? (vs. 15-17)  
Where does Joseph send the brothers? Why? What does this reveal?
- B. What do the brothers assume? (vs. 18) What do they attempt to explain?  
Evaluate the steward's words and action. (vs. 23) What has already taken place?
- C. How does the steward prepare? (vs. 24) How do the brothers prepare? (vs. 25)
- D. What happens when Joseph arrives? (Recall Gen. 37:5-7) What does Joseph ask?  
What does Joseph say to Benjamin? (vs.30) What do Joseph's emotions reveal?
- E. How are the brothers seated? (vs.33) How do the brothers react?
- F. Why do you think Benjamin's portion greater? Describe the scene as they feast.
- G. How do Joseph's gracious actions reflect the heart of God? (See Luke 15:22-24)