

## Back to Egypt: Caring for Others More than Myself

Genesis 43

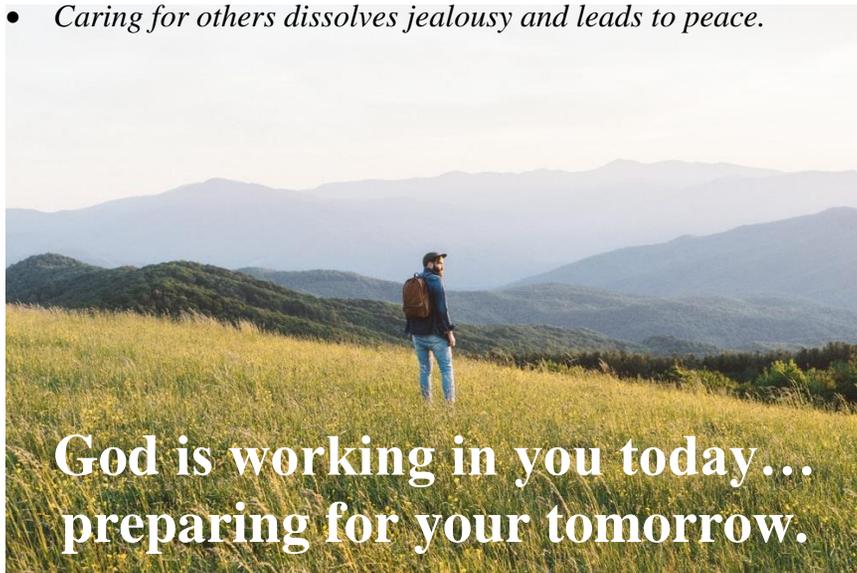
The famine forces Joseph's brothers back to Egypt for a second time. God awakened their guilt the first trip; now, spiritual transformation is exhibited in selfless behavior. The wintry chill of guilt melts into the spring of concern for others, confession, and peace.

### The return to Egypt: God's transformation of Jacob's sons

- *Reluctant Jacob lets Benjamin go; Judah is surety* (1-15)
- *The brothers confess finding money in their bags* (16-25)
- *Joseph eats with his brothers; Benjamin gets most* (26-34)

### Evidences of growth of spiritual transformation

- *Taking responsibility for the welfare of others.*
- *Confession leads to forgiveness, forgiveness to thanksgiving.*
- *Caring for others dissolves jealousy and leads to peace.*



God is working in you today...  
preparing for your tomorrow.

## Digging Deeper

1. In Gen. 42, God used famine to begin transforming the sons of Joseph from a selfish, dysfunctional clan into men from whom a mighty nation would grow. Their guilt over the treatment of their brother rose to the surface, and they recognized that God was doing something to them. This spark of conscience grew, and in Gen. 43 it is beginning to 'bud' in their lives. Judah rises to the top of the ten brothers in this chapter (hence, it is through him that the Messiah will come): What does he say to his father Jacob to get him to allow Benjamin to go to Egypt? What trait of character does he exhibit in verses 8-9?
2. Vv. 16-25 record the 'build-up' to the eleven brothers meeting Joseph for lunch. They are about to have a private lunch with a man of immense power. Hebrew scholar Bruce Waltke writes, *To be invited to a meal with a high official...is fraught with the potential for promotion or rejection.* What is their fear? What do they do? How might this event have affected their hearts?
3. Joseph's steward's words in v23 are fascinating. He recognizes God (*Elohim*) as providentially guiding events! Where might a pagan Egyptian servant have come to know the God of Israel? His opening words, *Be at ease [shalom lachem; lit. "Peace to you"], do not be afraid,* are like Jesus' words to His disciples (Jn. 14.27). He confirms he received their money on their first trip), then says, *the God of your father has given your treasure in your sacks.* In other words, *You don't owe us anything; your God gave you your money back!* What are they thinking now?
4. Joseph's passion is seen again in the closing paragraph of Gen. 43 (verses 26-34), when he leaves his brothers and weeps. Why do you think he is weeping? His love for his brothers, however, doesn't keep him from testing them again. What does he seek to learn about the ten older brothers by giving Benjamin more food than them? What is the result of his test? What phrase in v34 implies this?