

## **Invited, Not Indicted**

**Scripture:** Genesis 43:16–34

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### **Introduction**

There are moments in life when something good happens, and instead of receiving it, we question it. Rather than resting in what God is doing, we begin to wonder what is coming next. This often reveals a deeper issue, our understanding of God has been shaped more by guilt than by grace. In Genesis 43, the brothers are not running from God, but they are not resting in Him either. Their past is shaping their present, and their fear is distorting their view of God. Through this passage, we see that God is not merely arranging circumstances, He is exposing hearts and moving His people toward restoration.

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### **Main Movements**

#### **1. The F\_\_\_\_\_ of the Brothers (v.16–22)**

- Misinterpreting circumstances through guilt
- Expecting judgment instead of grace
- A guilty heart anticipates punishment

#### **Key Thought:**

When sin is not dealt with rightly, it distorts how we see God and everything around us.

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#### **2. The F\_\_\_\_\_ of Joseph (v.23–31)**

- Peace declared: “Do not be afraid”
- Provision already made
- Compassion behind the scenes

#### **Key Thought:**

God often works through unexpected means, providing before we even realize our need has been met.

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#### **3. The F\_\_\_\_\_ of Family (v.32–34)**

- Seated together, though not fully unified
- Test revealed through Benjamin’s favor
- No jealousy, evidence of change

#### **Key Thought:**

God uses favor not only to bless His people, but to reveal and transform their hearts.

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### **Application**

- Do you misinterpret God’s work because of past guilt?
- Are you bracing for judgment when God is extending grace?
- Can you rejoice in the blessings of others without comparison?