

J O S E P H

RETURNING HEARTS

The Crisis of 'Hunger'

- ❖ God uses our 'needs':
 - ❖ To create passion for His plans
 - ❖ To show us paths we need to take
 - ❖ To create changes in our hearts
- ❖ There are 2 kinds of pain: one just hurts...
 - ❖ The other changes us!
- ❖ The brothers, Jacob, even Joseph...

Broken hearts

- ❖ Jacob's broken heart pours out...
 - ❖ YOU! (42:36) bereaved of my children
- ❖ Joseph, Simeon, Benjamin – all against ME...
 - ❖ Jacob here is filled with grief, no hope left
 - ❖ Not a time of faith for him
- ❖ Yet, it was GOD who was at work!!!

Prepared

- ❖ ISRAEL! Gives some wisdom (11)
 - ❖ Bring some of our best (a little, as a present)
 - ❖ Balm, honey, spices, perfume, nuts...
 - ❖ Double the silver! Honesty at last!
- ❖ The most cherished part of Israel – BEN!
 - ❖ God will get to the thing you hold most dear!
 - ❖ Job, Ruth, Esther, JB, even Jesus~

The *El Shaddai*

- ❖ God Almighty - 35:11 when he was called
- ❖ Used 65x – I AM – 17:1; Job 5:7 (Eliaphaz)
- ❖ Give you compassion, mercy – favor
- ❖ Release your other brother and Benjamin
- ❖ A sense of equality?
- ❖ As for me – If I am barren, bereaved, childless...
- ❖ Thy will be done...

The Reunion

- ❖ Present and double money... (15)
- ❖ They stand before Joseph
- ❖ Joseph sees Benjamin (16)
 - ❖ Calls for a meal to be prepared
 - ❖ Joseph's house... *prisoner's held there too!*
 - ❖ Fear rises! Guilt... "money" out to get us! (18)
 - ❖ Sell us for slaves and our donkeys? Their sins!

Guilt of Fear?

- ❖ Private conversation with steward
 - ❖ Money was in the sacks, we brought it back
 - ❖ ... with more money to buy grain!
- ❖ Steward replies: (18)
 - ❖ Shalom! Peace, be at ease...
 - ❖ Your GOD (*Elohim*), God of your Father (???)
 - ❖ Gave you your money, I was in charge...
 - ❖ Simeon!

The Wait

- ❖ Simeon get filled in on the time...
- ❖ They get filled in too!
- ❖ Water and food for donkeys...
- ❖ Plan their gifts for Joseph, and wait
- ❖ Joseph comes home... working still!
 - ❖ Presents and homage ["11 stars bowing down"]

Questions

- ❖ Is your father alive, is he well... (28)
- ❖ He lifts his eyes – closer this time...
- ❖ Benjamin - “his mother’s son”
- ❖ Your youngest brother?
- ❖ “May God be gracious to you” (*Elohim*)
- ❖ Giving a blessing

Joseph's Heart

- ❖ God has made this ruler tender...
 - ❖ Stirred deeply, bowels, compassion moved
 - ❖ Private place to weep, sobbing – *bakah*
 - ❖ When he is controlled and washed
- ❖ 3 tables apart – Brothers, Egyptians, Joseph
 - ❖ Seated by birth order? (33)
 - ❖ Benjamin get 5x more... feasting all around!

Time of Testing

- ❖ Noon meal... day went well
- ❖ Ch. 44 - “Then” - food, money returned again
 - ❖ and my silver cup! Youngest targeted
 - ❖ Abruptly “shown the door” 3
 - ❖ As soon as it was light
 - ❖ Get to cities edge – pursuit!

Evil for Good

- ❖ House steward sent... “done wrong”
- ❖ Hasty vow: death/slavery – not demanded
- ❖ “According to your words” but only guilty one
 - ❖ Searched eldest to youngest
 - ❖ Benjamin’s sack brings despair, torn clothes
 - ❖ All return

Judah and his brothers

- ❖ Time of reform and restoration of Judah
- ❖ 15 – “What is this deed you have done?”
 - ❖ God has found out the iniquity – 1st time godly line
 - ❖ God, not you, has done this!
 - ❖ “your servants...my lord’s slaves” unity
- ❖ Joseph denies judging all for one – “go up to your father in peace”

A private word

- ❖ You asked about our family, we told you
- ❖ Focus of father on the youngest
- ❖ “his life is bound up in the lad’s life” (30)
- ❖ I became the surety, guarantee (32)
- ❖ I will stay in place of the lad
- ❖ For the sake of my father...family

The Heart

- ❖ Do we shed God's tears? Pray His prayers?
Do we Dream His Dreams for His people?
- ❖ Moses – Ex 32:11-14; 30-35; 33:12-16
- ❖ Daniel 9 (see 18ff)
- ❖ Ezra 9 (see 6ff)
- ❖ Paul – Rom 9:1-5
- ❖ Jesus – John 17