



## SERMON NOTES

March 16, 2014

Scripture: Genesis 44:18-34 (NAS)

Topic: "Our Approach To Authority"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 18 Then Judah approached him, and said, "Oh my lord, may your servant please speak a word in my lord's ears, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are equal to Pharaoh.
- 19 "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?'
- 20 "We said to my lord, 'We have an old father and a little child of his old age. Now his brother is dead, so he alone is left of his mother, and his father loves him.'
- 21 "Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me that I may set my eyes on him.'
- 22 "But we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'
- 23 "You said to your servants, however, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.'
- 24 "Thus it came about when we went up to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.
- 25 "Our father said, 'Go back, buy us a little food.'
- 26 "But we said, 'We cannot go down. If our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'
- 27 "Your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons; and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn in pieces," and I have not seen him since.
- 29 'If you take this one also from me, and harm befalls him, you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow.'
- 30 "Now, therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life,
- 31 when he sees that the lad is not with us, he will die. Thus your servants will bring the gray hair of your servant our father down to Sheol in sorrow.
- 32 "For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then let me bear the blame before my father forever.'
- 33 "Now, therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.
- 34 "For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me--for fear that I see the evil that would overtake my father?"

### **I. NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO AUTHORITY**

- A. We Questions It
- B. We Challenge It
- C. We Claim Our RIGHTS
- D. Submission To Authorities In The Church Is Repugnant

### **II. JOSEPH USED HIS AUTHORITY TO LEAD HIS BROTHERS TO REPENTANCE**

- A. Could Have Made Himself Known Immediately
- B. Instead He Tested Them
  - 1. He put the cup in Benjamin's sack
  - 2. He told his brothers to take the grain and go without Benjamin

### **III. JUDAH'S ELOQUENT SPEECH PARALLELS OUR APPROACH TO GOD IN PRAYER**

- A. Attitude Of Submission *Luke 12:4, 5*
  - 1. No claims of innocence *Psalm 19:12*
  - 2. Humility in asking to speak
  - 3. Acknowledges authority
  - 4. He spoke of himself and his brothers as servants
- B. Actions Testified To His Repentance
  - 1. Judah was willing to live a different life
  - 2. Judah had a guilty past
- C. True Repentance Accepts The Blame
  - 1. He could have blamed his father's favoritism
  - 2. Instead he was greatly concerned for his father
- D. The Appeal Was Logical And Heartfelt