



SERMON NOTES

March 2, 2014

Scripture: Genesis 42:29 - 43:14 (NAS)

Topic: "A Pessimistic View of Life"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 29 When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying,
- 30 "The man, the lord of the land, spoke harshly with us, and took us for spies of the country.
- 31 "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.
- 32 'We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no longer alive, and the youngest is with our father today in the land of Canaan.'
- 33 "The man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me and take grain for the famine of your households, and go.
- 34 'But bring your youngest brother to me that I may know that you are not spies, but honest men. I will give your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'
- 35 Now it came about as they were emptying their sacks, that behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were dismayed.
- 36 Their father Jacob said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and you would take Benjamin; all these things are against me."
- 37 Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my care, and I will return him to you."
- 38 But Jacob said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should befall him on the journey you are taking, then you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow."
- 1 Now the famine was severe in the land.
- 2 So it came about when they had finished eating the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."
- 3 Judah spoke to him, however, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'
- 4 "If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.
- 5 "But if you do not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"
- 6 Then Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly by telling the man whether you still had another brother?"
- 7 But they said, "The man questioned particularly about us and our relatives, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' So we answered his questions. Could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"
- 8 Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the lad with me and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones.
- 9 "I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame before you forever.
- 10 "For if we had not delayed, surely by now we could have returned twice."
- 11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man as a present, a little balm and a little honey, aromatic gum and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.
- 12 "Take double the money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was a mistake.
- 13 "Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man;
- 14 and may God Almighty grant you compassion in the sight of the man, so that he will release to you your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."

I. JACOB THE PESSIMIST

- A. Two Sons Wrongly Assumed To Be Dead *Genesis 42:36*
- B. Are You Guilty Of The Same Attitude?
- C. A History Of The Events

- 1. Jacob is unwilling to let Benjamin Go
- 2. Reuben's response
- 3. Judah's response
- 4. Jacob consents with a scheme

II. EVIDENCES OF JACOB'S FAILURE TO TRUST THE LORD

- A. He Was Governed By Irrational Fears
- B. Pessimistic View Of The Past And The Future
- C. Jacob's Fears Were Rooted In A Self-Centered Attitude
- D. Not Trusting God When He Used His Children To Fulfill His Need
- E. Blaming Others For His Problems
- F. Stubborn Refusal To Admit When He Was Wrong
- G. Acting As Though Fate Was In Control
- H. He Returned To His Scheming
- I. Turning To The Lord As A Last Resort

CONCLUSION:

- A. As God's People We Need To Write Him Into The Equation At The Front End *Romans 8:31, 32; Hebrews 11:6*
- B. We Need A Good Biblical Historical Perspective To Help Us View Our Situation Realistically, "Not The Last Prophet Left And They Are Seeking To Kill Me Mentality."
- C. We Need To Set Aside Selfish Thoughts And Attitudes
- D. We Need To Lay Aside Our Grumbling
- E. We Need God's Grace To Do These Things