

Genesis 43 - Setting the Table for Peace

Big Idea: Peacemaking requires persistent repentance, incredible patience, and abundant mercy.

Outline

1. **Mercy Needed (vv. 1-14)**
 2. **Mercy Displayed (vv.15-34)**
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Mercy Needed (vv. 1-14)

[2] And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go again, buy us a little food.”

Genesis 43:3–5

[3] But Judah said to him, “The man solemnly warned us, saying, ‘You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.’ [4] If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. [5] But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, ‘You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.’”

[6] Israel said, “Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?”

[8] And Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. [9] I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. [10] If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice.”

Genesis 43:11–13

[11] Then their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man, a little balm and a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds. [12] Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an oversight. [13] Take also your brother, and arise, go again to the man. (ESV)

[14] May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.”

Mercy Displayed

[16] When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, “Bring the men into the house, and slaughter an animal and make ready, for the men are to dine with me at noon.”

[23] He replied, “Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.

[27] And he inquired about their welfare and said, “Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?” [28] They said, “Your servant our father is well; he is still alive.” And they bowed their heads and prostrated themselves.

[29] And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, and said, “Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!”

[30] Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there.

Iain Duguid - “He longed to be reunited with his brothers. However, for real reconciliation to take place, it would be necessary to see whether real change had occurred in his brothers. That, of course, is true if our own broken relationships are to be restored. It is not only the guilty party who has to pay the price of reconciliation. The person who has been sinned against also has to be willing to bear the cost. There will usually be tears on both sides of the equation before shalom can be restored. Sometimes it might seem easier to forget the whole endeavor and get back to living unreconciled lives; at other times, there may be the temptation to gloss over the sin and rush to reconciliation before real change. Pursuing true reconciliation is a hard and costly process, demanding much of all those concerned.”

Application

1. Living in peace requires persistence, patience, and abundant grace.
2. We need to constantly remind ourselves of God's kindness and patience toward us.
 - Duguid says, "*Substantive change is not often a sudden, 180-degree turn. It usually happens in small, incremental steps. Perhaps that is something you should be looking for in your strained and shattered relationships: small steps toward change. Sometimes we demand unrealistic levels of transformation from people and refuse to make any concessions until the other person has changed completely. But change is a process, and we can often recognize and celebrate baby steps in the right direction, while still acknowledging that the process has a good deal further to go.*"
3. We need to celebrate God's abundant mercy.