

STUDY 6 - THE GOD OF MERCY WHO SOFTENS HEARTS - GENESIS 43

Share

Think of a time when someone showed you unexpected mercy or kindness that you didn't deserve. How did that experience affect you? Did it soften your attitude or change how you responded to others?

Observe & Reflect

Read Genesis 43:1-14

1. What crisis is Jacob's family facing, and how does Judah respond to his father's reluctance to send Benjamin?
2. What does Judah's offer in verses 8-10 reveal about his character development?
3. In Jacob's response (verses 11-14), what practical steps does he take, and what significant prayer does he pray? What does this prayer show about his surrender to God's mercy?

Read Genesis 43:15-34

4. Describe the brothers' fears when they are taken to Joseph's house (verses 18-22). How does the steward's response (verses 23-24) demonstrate surprising mercy?
5. What specific acts of kindness and favour does Joseph show his brothers in verses 26-34 (note the greetings, Benjamin's blessing, seating arrangement, and portions)? How do these moments connect to Jacob's prayer in verse 14?
6. Compare the meal scene in Genesis 43:32-34 with the earlier event in Genesis 37:23-25. How does Joseph's treatment of his brothers show mercy in contrast to how they once treated him?
7. In verses 32-34, Benjamin receives special favour (five times the portion). How do the brothers respond? What does this reveal about the effect of God's mercy on their hearts?

Next Steps

8. How does Jacob's surrender in prayer and the brothers' experience of undeserved mercy challenge or encourage you in situations where you feel anxious, guilty, or in crisis?
9. What does this passage teach us about God's ability to soften hearts through acts of mercy?
10. Joseph's mercy points us to the greater mercy of Jesus. Where in your life right now do you need to receive God's mercy and let it soften any hardness, envy, bitterness, or fear? How can you respond this week by rejoicing in God's grace toward others (even when they seem to receive more than you) and showing mercy to those around you?