



Small Group Sermon Response ?'s - Week of 9/14/14 – Genesis 43
“Please Let Your Servant Remain Instead Of The Boy As A Servant...”

*(God's gracious work to save His people through Christ
is also sure to be making them more like Christ.)*

- 6:30 to 6:45 — Meet & Greet / Conversation
 - 6:45 to 7:30 — Sermon Response Time
 - 7:30... — Smaller Groups for Accountability and Prayer

1. Have you ever spent time lamenting that yours isn't the "perfect family"? How is that unhelpful for promoting true gospel change, and what would be a more helpful mindset? Consider God's choice to represent Himself and work toward Christ through Jacob's family, along with Ezekiel 16:1-22 and Titus 3:3-7.

2. The sermon pointed out that Joseph's brothers' envy of him was ultimately a problem between them and God. In situations where others are hostile toward us, how should Joseph's (and ultimately Christ's) example of pointing persecutors to God and their standing before Him (rather than just retaliating) be instructive for us?

3. Movement #1: A Profound Pledge (43:1-14)
 - As God did with Jacob here, how have you seen him work through the circumstances of life to patiently remind you that your trust must ultimately be in Him?

4. Movement #2: A Confusing Kindness (43:15-34)
 - Consider the steward's apparent familiarity with God, inspired by Joseph, as he points the brothers to God and gives Him credit for Joseph's generosity. How might we take the same approach with people in our lives?

 - *Shalom* ("peace") is a common theme of this passage (vv. 23 & 27). Beyond just saying the word, how is Joseph (also through his steward) going about bringing peace into 20+ years of hostility? How can we learn from this and live it out?

 - Reflecting on Joseph's remarkable kindness and compassion, Who Else have you seen pour out remarkable blessings on those who hated Him? How is it true with you, and what are some of your favorite passages that remind us of this?

Next Week: Movement #3: A Compassionate Conspiracy (44:1-17)
Movement #4: A Selfless Substitution (44:18-34)

5. What other reflections, questions, or evaluation do you have regarding the sermon? What have you seen of God, yourself, the gospel, and/or the life of faith? What has God been teaching you in your own personal study lately?