**THE CONTINUING HAND OF GOD**

**(Genesis 43 and 44)**

1. **THE PATTERN OF NECESSITY (Gen.43:1-14)**
2. The necessity of nature
3. The will of man
4. Circumstances

CHANGES IN JUDAH AND JACOB

1. **THE POWER OF TRUE AFFECTION (Gen.43:15-34)**
2. Reassured by steward (v.23)
3. Steward brought out Simeon (v.23)
4. Given water to wash their feet and food to feed their donkeys (v.24)
5. Joseph arrived and began to speak kindly (v.26-27)
6. Elegant feast (v.31-34)

TEST #2…v.34 JEALOUS?

1. **THE PURGE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE (Gen.44)**

TEST #3 When Benjamin gets in trouble, what will brothers do?

1. Judah submits to God’s justice (v.16-17)
2. Judah pleads for mercy (v.18-31)
3. Judah presents Himself as the SUBSTITUTE (v.32-34)

LESSONS TO LEARN:

1.God will always uncover your iniquity. Usually He discloses iniquity in this life. But even if He does not do so here, He will certainly do it in the life to come. The Bible says, “Your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23) The secrets of all hearts will be disclosed. All hidden things will be brought into the light from darkness. As F.B. Meyer once said, “There is absolutely no chance of escape for a man, save in the wounds of Jesus; these are the city of refuge into which the pursuer cannot enter, and in which the fugitive is safe.” If you have not entered into that city and been cleansed by that blood, do so now while there is yet hope. Jesus stands ready not only to expose but to forgive, not only to condemn but to cleanse and restore to useful service.

2.Learn that it is NOT what you achieve in this world that matters, but what God in righteousness chooses to do through you.

3.Have you ever realized that as Judah stood absolutely GUILTY, HELPLESS, and DESPSERATE before Joseph--you and I are before Almighty God? Have you ever realized that nothing you do, can make you right with God? Have you ever realized that all of Scripture tells us that One far greater than Judah stepped forward to be our Substitute, to take our place and to set us free? If you have never realized that Jesus Christ is the ONLY SUBSTITUTE that God will accept, will you surrender to Him today? If you have already surrendered your all to Him, will you choose to thank and praise Him for His matchless love for you, for His willingness to die in your place, and spend time praising His glorious name?