**Lesson 26 Genesis 43 & 44**

**The Second Journey To Egypt**

1. Why is Judah successful in prevailing upon Israel (Jacob) in vs.3-10, when Reuben’s offer (42:37-38) was rejected?

Genesis 42:37-38

37 Then Reuben told his father: “You may kill my own two sons if I do not return him to you! Put him in my care, and I will bring him back to you.”

38 But Jacob replied: “My son shall not go down with you. Now that his brother is dead, he is the only one left. If some disaster should befall him on the journey you must make, you would send my white head down to Sheol in grief.”

Genesis 43:3-10

 3 But Judah replied: “The man strictly warned us, ‘You shall not see me unless your brother is with you.’

 4 If you are willing to let our brother go with us, we will go down to buy food for you.

 5 But if you are not willing, we will not go down, because the man told us, ‘You shall not see me unless your brother is with you.’”

 6 Israel demanded, “Why did you bring this trouble on me by telling the man that you had another brother?”

 7 They answered: “The man kept asking about us and our family: ‘Is your father still living? Do you have another brother?’ We answered him accordingly. How could we know that he would say, ‘Bring your brother down here’?”

 8 Then Judah urged his father Israel: “Let the boy go with me, that we may be off and on our way if you and we and our children are to keep from starving to death.

 9 I myself will serve as a guarantee for him. You can hold me responsible for him. If I fail to bring him back and set him before you, I will bear the blame before you forever.

10 Had we not delayed, we could have been there and back twice by now!”

2. Compare Judah’s words in 43:8-9 with 37:26-27. Do you think he has changed much? How? What points reveal God’s work in his heart?

Genesis 37:26-27

26Judah said to his brothers: “What is to be gained by killing our brother and concealing his blood?

27Come, let us sell him to these Ishmaelites, instead of doing away with him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh.” His brothers agreed.

3. Why do you think Joseph takes his brothers into his own house and has a meal with them?

4. A. How will the fear that overcomes the brothers (vs.18) help Joseph complete his plan?

18 But they became apprehensive when they were led to his house. “It must be,” they thought, “on account of the money put back in our bags the first time, that we are taken inside—in order to attack us and take our donkeys and seize us as slaves.”

 B. What more does Joseph want?

**Chapter 44**

5*. Challenge Question:* Try to suggest what ultimate plans for the good of his brothers Joseph had in each case when:

 A. He gave Benjamin five times more than the rest.

 B. He put a cup in Benjamin’s sack.

 C. He refused to keep them all as slaves, but kept only Benjamin.

6. How do the brothers respond when the planted cup is found in Benjamin’s sack?

7. How do their actions here compare to the way they acted at the end of Chapter 37?

8. What things do you find in Judah’s speech that reveal God’s work in his heart?

9. What verses in Chapter 44 show their repentance?

10. Do you think this climactic ending was the way Joseph envisioned it? Why?