



**Speaker:** Pastor Matt Magee

**Series:** Genesis - Meant for Good

**Sermon Title:** Abundant Compassion Leading to Repentance

**Scripture:** [Genesis 43](#)

**KEY QUESTION:** How do you recognize when your manner of living is actually working against your spiritual growth rather than in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, which progressively brings about your spiritual growth?

In Genesis 43, we see 3 milestones along the journey to repentance and trust in the Lord.

**MAIN IDEA:** God leads us ① to a crisis of faith, ② through a door of surrender, where we ③ see His kindness to bring about our repentance so that we find Him to be our greatest treasure.

1. God leads us to a crisis of faith

- God used the pressure of need (tactic/means) to highlight Judah's desperation to care for His family led Him to put His own life/freedom on the line (a willingness to sacrifice himself - Gen 43:9).
- God loosened Jacob/Israel's grip on his precious son, Benjamin (the son of his old age, born as his beloved Rachel died in labor (Gen 35:18-19), so he would entrust his care to God Almighty (El Shaddai) (43:11, 13-14).
- God used Israel's sons' fear of being found out to heighten their guilt by being recipients of abundant compassion (mercy, grace, sympathy) (Gen 43:18; 23-25, 33-34).
- Joseph is working toward the fulfillment of his God-given dreams (all his family in Egypt under his protection and provision).

2. ... through a door of surrender

- Jacob/Israel's surrender is seen through his relenting (43:11), his gifts (43:11b-12), Benjamin (43:13a), his prayer of blessing to the God whose power can overcome all obstacles-El Shaddai (43:14, God's revealed name to Abram in 17:1).
- Joseph's brothers are still being brought to a place of surrender as their fear of being discovered is working on them and their guilty consciences are being convicted.

3. God's kindness should bring about our repentance so that we find Him to be our greatest treasure.
  - Israel is home, being forced to wait upon God. The press of solitude forces Jacob to wait to see if Benjamin and Simeon will return.
  - Joseph's brothers are being systematically undone by God's kindness to them.
  - Joseph, himself, swells with joy and is overcome with compassion for Benjamin (43:29-30, 34).

## **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. How do you recognize when your manner of living is actually working against your spiritual growth rather than in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, which progressively brings about your spiritual growth?
2. What similarities do you see between Luke 15:22-24 and Genesis 43:16, 31-34?
3. Discuss a recent or current crisis of faith? What about it is a true crisis? Why does it require faith?
4. What stirs up fear and uncertainty in your mind as you are brought to a door of surrender? Who are you afraid of? What are you afraid of losing? Verbalizing it now with people who can help you will be a source of strength as you surrender through decisions that must be made and carried through to completion.
5. What aspect of this crisis requires genuine repentance. Read and discuss Romans 2:4ff.
6. Discuss the beauty of God's preparing a meal for us in the presence of our enemies.
7. How do you, or do you not, see Jesus as your greatest treasure?
8. In what ways can we rest in the Lord with political and emotional unrest all around us?
9. What is the next step you must take? Will you trust God's kind faithfulness and take it?