

# Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

## Genesis 43:1-34

"You Shall Not Covet" – October 17, 2023



### **Introduction**

When was the last time that you struggled with jealousy or envy? Envy is like a disease that destroys the body and relationships. ([Proverbs 14:30](#)) Envy is sorrow at someone else's good. We are called to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. ([Romans 12:15](#)) Envy does the opposite. Do you covet someone else's abilities, skills, or good looks? Do you envy the affection or respect that they receive that you don't? This can lead to anger that damages relationships. We have seen a lot of envy in the book of Genesis. Cain, Jacob, Rachel, and Joseph's brothers have all displayed envy that destroyed family relationships.

God promised Jacob in Genesis 35 that a people, a company of nations, would come from him. They would be a unified, harmonious whole of nations. This would not be easy. Before reconciliation happens, repentance needs to happen. In Chapter 41, we were left with the question, "had Joseph's brothers truly changed?" Joseph had given them a test.

### **Sermon Outline**

1. Scene One: Returning to Egypt Vs. 1-14
2. Scene Two: A Feast with a Ruler Vs. 15-34

### **Read & Discuss**

#### **1. Read vs. 1 – 14**

We don't know how much time has passed between the trips, but we do know that they were a family stuck in neutral. They needed food because of the famine, but going back to Egypt was risky. They were stuck in their circumstances. There was no human solution. So, what do they do? They look up - finally. ([Vs. 14](#))

Pain is God's megaphone. It is in pain that God gets our attention. We don't want pain, but it leads us to the path of life. Jacob called on God. He remembered who God is - El Shaddai - God Almighty. ([Genesis 35:11](#)) Jacob's hope was beginning to rest on God almighty. Do you find yourself in a situation where you feel trapped? Have you looked to God Almighty? We don't know how each detail of our life will unfold. Life is risky. We try to avoid risk, eliminate it and play it safe. But risk-free living is a mirage.

Jacob's reluctance to act was fueled by self-pity. Jacob's family was starving. The brothers won't go back until Jacob acts. Judah stepped up. A godly man rejects passivity, acts courageously, and expects God's reward. To be a godly man, read God's word. Know what God expects and seek to do what God requires. We are all subject to weakness. We must look to God. Pray, work hard, and leave the results to God. Only Jesus can give you the strength and determine the outcome. We can trust Him.

Risk is unavoidable. We don't know what a year holds. We don't know what tomorrow will bring. Our life is a vapor, but God knows and controls tomorrow. Will you step out and trust God with everything?

#### **2. Read vs. 15 - 34**

The brothers go back with double the amount of money and their brother, Benjamin. The second most important man in Egypt asked them to come to his house. They were nervous. Why? Their conscience was awakened. They knew they were guilty. What about you? Do you have a guilty conscience? If your conscience is condemning you, it is God's mercy. ([Proverbs 28:1](#)) The wicked flee because of their guilty conscience. The righteous have nothing to be afraid of.

Joseph had every reason to get even with his brothers. He had the power to do it, but he didn't. He told them that God had given them treasure. God took care of the debt. God, in His providence, got Joseph to Egypt. There had not been peace between them for twenty years, but here, Joseph speaks peace to

them. (Vs. [23](#), [27](#)) The brothers are preoccupied and concerned about what Joseph might do to them, but Joseph's goal was to restore peace to the family.

Joseph's story came full circle. He was overwhelmed, so he wept. Repentance and restoration are costly to the ones who have sinned, and the ones sinned against.

They sat to eat, and Joseph continued to test them. Giving Benjamin five times more than the other brothers would reveal any envy or jealousy in the brothers. The test doesn't reveal any grumbling or arguing. They were not enslaved to bitterness or envy. They had been set free. Do you want to be set free from envy and jealousy? It is hard. ([Proverbs 27:4](#)) We can't do it in our own strength. What is the secret? Grace. Peace came because of God's grace. The brothers received grace upon grace.

While Benjamin got five times more, the brothers realized that they had gotten much, much more than they deserved. Experiencing God's grace set them free. This points us to the Gospel. We have all sinned. ([Romans 3:23](#)) We have rejected God. The wages of our sin is death. ([Romans 6:23](#)) If we get what is fair, it would be God's wrath and Hell. But God in His grace comes to rebels like you and me with an invitation of peace. We, His enemies, can become friends - an adopted member of His family. How? It is because of God's grace. ([Romans 5:1](#))

When we experience this reconciliation with God, it cultivates peace and reconciliation with others - even those we once envied. Are you given over to self-comparison? Are you stuck in bitterness and envy? You don't have to stay there. God is calling you to come in and feast. Don't worry about the way God is using others. Don't worry about what God has given other people. Don't dwell on your circumstances and how you compare with others. Look to God. Remember His amazing grace in your life. Rejoice. Follow Him.

**Additional Reading:** *Luke 15 (The Prodigal Son)*

### **Prayer of Response**

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at [fbcum.org](http://fbcum.org)

**Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [Genesis 44:1-34](#) "You Shall Not Lie."