

Genesis: Misery & Mercy

Scripture: Genesis 43

Also: Isaiah 55:7; Proverbs 28:13; Colossians 3:13; Acts 2:38; Matthew 6:14; Luke 23:34; Ephesians 4:31-32; Psalm 32:1; Acts 3:19; Romans 12:20; 1 John 1:9

Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. The sermon follows the trail of Joseph's brothers from misery to mercy.
 - Could you describe a time when you, similar to these brothers, were in misery?
 - What did it take to move out of misery?
 - Was being shown mercy a part of the process? If so, what was it like?
3. Joseph was the willing human that God used to show mercy to his brothers.
 - What might Joseph have wrestled with in this process?
 - What did it cost him? (Giving up his right to be angry at them, etc)
 - In what relationships might God be challenging you to show mercy?
 - How might that bring healing, hope, and unity to your family, friends, co-workers, etc?
 - What might it cost you to show mercy like this?
4. An overview of Genesis 43 was also described as the brothers moving from "we are guilty" to "we are grateful". For them, that trail went through honesty, unity, belief, and gratitude.
 - When you are guilty of something, does that affect your ability to be grateful?
 - How does the path begin with honesty?
 - Does the path always look the same?
5. What are some biblical differences of forgiveness and reconciliation?
 - (For instance we are commanded to forgive regardless of others' willingness to receive it or repent of their wrong, but reconciliation requires two humble parties).

Spend some time thanking God for the mercy that He has shown to us and praying for those to whom mercy needs to be shown. Make a plan for how you will show them mercy.