

## A Reluctant Obedience

Genesis 43:1-14

*"God's mercy is so great that you may sooner drain the sea of its water, or deprive the sun of its light, or make space too narrow, than diminish the great mercy of God." Charles Spurgeon*

- **Israel's real problem vs. 1-5**
  - The famine was severe and forced Israel to act.
  - Judah steps up and recalls the warning given by the man.
- **Israel's unrighteous self-pity vs. 6-10**
  - Focused on himself, he blames his sons for telling the truth.
  - Judah again reminds his father of the seriousness of the situation. Without Benjamin going down to Egypt it would be a disastrous outcome.
  - Judah pledges to be a substitute for Benjamin. He is willingly to exchange his honor and fortune and to accept the blame and shame before his father should anything happen to his little brother.
- **Israel's reluctant permission vs. 11-14**
  - He agrees to Judah's proposal but has a wise plan of his own. *Gen. 32:13-16*
  - He confesses in his prayer that even with these preparations, there are no guarantees and resigns himself to the fact that he might be bereaved. *Gen. 37:25-28*
  - Notice the name of God that Israel calls upon, "*El Shaddai: God Almighty*" *Gen.17:1*
  - "*If I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.*" We see an old man coming to the end of himself.

**Application:** How are we to respond to God's Word this morning?

1. **Recognize:** Know the good hand of the LORD God Almighty is behind all things. Therefore, your greatest problem is not the circumstances (*a famine*) that you face in life, but your self-dependent sinful heart that thinks it knows what is best.
  - What do you love so much that you are unwilling to trust God with this morning?
2. **Repent:** Confess your sin of self-dependence, turn and trust Christ alone for the forgiveness of your sin. Only Christ can bring reconciliation to the broken relationship with God and others.
3. **Rejoice:** Praise the LORD this morning and every day, that we can cast ourselves on the mercy of God. Rejoice in that this is His eternal attitude toward those that are His!