

## *The Power of Mercy and Love*

*Genesis 43*

*"Mercy is written large over this account from beginning to end. Father Israel's prayer had been answered. Mercy rained down on his sons all the day long. Joseph boiled over with mercy for Benjamin, and hot tears streaked his face. The feast was one of grace and mercy. The celebration went on into the night – "And they drank and were merry with him." The time passed with hilarity and pleasure. Their fears proved groundless." Hughes*

- I. God used the power of inescapable circumstances to stir the hearts of Jacob and his sons to become men of kindness, mercy and love. His purpose was to bring **harmony**, **peace**, and **respect** toward one another as a family for the sake of the covenantal promises He gave to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Gen. 1-14

- A. God used the power of inescapable circumstances to begin a **transformation process** in hearts that were willing to take personal responsibility for the problems the family was facing. Judah's **willingness** to address their problems was absolutely necessary for godly change to take place.

Gen. 43:1-10; Phil. 4:12-13; 1 Peter 1:3

- B. God used the power of inescapable circumstance to move Jacob (Israel) to put his eyes back on *El Shaddai (God Almighty)* in their time of need. God moved him **from** the **fear** of losing his son Benjamin, **to trust** in Him to work out all things for the good of his family.

Gen. 11-14

- II. God used the power of disharmony, fear, and regret to forcibly move Jacob's family into the power of His great mercy and love. He used the heart of Joseph, full of the Holy Spirit and truth, **to allow** his brothers **to experience** the joy of harmony and kindness toward each other.

Gen. 43:15-34

- A. Godly Joseph brought the joy of forgiveness into the hearts of his brothers by honoring them with **acts of kindness**. His actions were absolutely necessary to bring forth the healing power of God's mercy and love.

- B. God used the power of negative circumstances, and the power of mercy and love, to heal Israel's family. God's mercy and love brought forth the fruit of mercy, love, kindness, respect, and harmony in the **yielded hearts** of a broken family in desperate need of change.