

Where's Your Chair?

Genesis 43 26-34



Show your servants your works, and let your glory be over their children.
Psalm 90:16

Praising:

Such blessings from thy gracious hand
our humble prayers implore;
be thou to us, O Lord our God,
our portion evermore.

Reading:

Genesis 43:26-34
Joseph sees Benjamin

First Joseph asks about the brothers and their family. This is another picture for us of how God feels about all his children. Joseph cares about them in a way that they cannot begin to imagine and in a way that cannot at this stage be revealed. The depth and intensity of this care spills over the moment Joseph sees Benjamin, so much so that Joseph has to leave the room to avoid giving the game away. Again, it's a reaction of love and

brotherhood which reveals something of God's longing to be restored and reconciled to us, as though our separation from him has been a cause of real loss and pain. Although the full truth remains concealed, Joseph's welcome and hospitality is enough to turn the brothers' anxiety and confusion into celebration and merriment. At least for now.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we say that you love us unconditionally

- yet we close our hearts to the mercy freely available in Jesus
- yet we close our eyes to unfairness, injustice and oppression everywhere we see it
- yet we close our ears to the cries of broken, hurting people all around us

Father: show me as much of your love as makes me want to give it away, share it around, talk about it and never stop doing so. Amen

Doing: