

Where's Your Chair?

Genesis 44 18-34



May the mountains bring forth peace, and the little hills righteousness for the people.
Psalm 72:3

Praising:

Thine for ever! O how blessed
they who find in thee their rest!
Saviour, Guardian, heavenly
Friend,
O defend us to the end.

Reading:

Genesis 44:18-34
Judah states his case to Joseph

Jacob had only allowed Benjamin to go to Egypt on the basis of Judah standing surety for him, so Judah is the one now who steps up to speak. With Benjamin in real and serious trouble, Judah pleads with Joseph to show the youngest brother mercy. But he doesn't stop there. Judah proceeds to outline the full implications of having to return to Canaan without Benjamin. Jacob will die, Judah explains. So because Judah stood surety for

Benjamin in the first instance and in order to honour that undertaking, Judah now proposes to present himself to Joseph as a substitute for his brother. Take me instead, Judah is saying or, in other words, blame me instead. Justice requires that Benjamin be punished. If Judah can take the punishment in Benjamin's place, justice will duly be served.

Listening:

Praying:

As Christ stood surety for us, Lord in turn make us advocates

- where we see people falsely accused or wrongly convicted
- where we see people put down, left-out or ridden roughshod over
- where we see people trapped, by circumstances, by beliefs, by relationships

Father: so your Son Jesus Christ took my place and my blame? Help me to get my head and heart around that. And then show me how to do for others what he has done for me. Amen

Doing: