

# Where's Your Chair?

Genesis 45 1-15



For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, the needy and those who have no helper.  
He shall have pity on the weak and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.  
Psalm 72:12-13

## **Praising:**

One the light of God's own presence,  
o'er his ransomed people shed,  
chasing far the gloom and terror,  
brightening all the path we tread:  
one the object of our journey,  
one the faith which never tires,  
one the earnest looking forward,  
one the hope our God inspires.

## **Reading:**

Genesis 45:1-15  
Joseph is revealed to his brothers

Of course it never occurred to the brothers that this powerful Egyptian official before them might care more about all that was happening than they did. Judah had been bargaining for Benjamin's release and would have been grateful to secure it. But what he and the brothers are

now offered is nothing short of total forgiveness, straight from the heart of the one they had wronged so cruelly twenty-two years before. And it's not just words from Joseph. To keep their guilt secret he speaks to them privately, but he also speaks to them warmly and intimately. Almost immediately he says that they are to come and live with him. To help them forgive themselves, he even says that what happened to him was not their doing but God's – all part of a bigger plan and a higher purpose.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Lord you offer us in Christ total forgiveness

- though we know we have done nothing to deserve it
- though we hate admitting that we even need it
- though we struggle to allow ourselves to receive it

Father: you meet my faltering attempts to follow you with nothing less than unconditional love. And that never fails to take me completely by surprise. Amen

## **Doing:**