

Where's Your Chair?

Genesis 43 1-15



'I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.'
Psalm 32:9

Praising:

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
Yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Reading:

Genesis 43:1-15
The grain runs out in Canaan

Circumstances change for Jacob in Canaan, although he still takes some persuading before agreeing that Benjamin can go. We can understand Jacob's first, face-saving suggestion that maybe they try to buy just a little grain. But there is no way round the demand of the Egyptian land manager, so it takes another brother Judah to step into the

frame and re-state the position to Jacob. Judah is conscious that time is ticking by and so, to bring things to a head, Judah offers to stand surety for Benjamin. Effectively Judah is saying: 'trust me'. Although this seems to swing it for Jacob, he still packs the travellers off with gifts in the hope of ingratiating himself. God has provided Jacob with a guarantee, yet he is still desperate to try and sort all this out by his own hand.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord bring us to see that in Christ we have the only guarantee we need

- that the power of evil may be overcome by the power of good
- that our feeble efforts to make a difference are worthwhile
- that even in the face of death itself we have the hope and the promise of new life

Father: you have given me Jesus Christ, the one who is all sufficient, all sustaining and all saving – and so often I can't see past the end of my own inadequate nose! Amen

Doing:

Friday, 29 January 2016