

**HOW CAN WE KNOW IF WE ARE WALKING WITH THE LORD?
LEARNING FROM JACOB'S RESPONSE TO DIFFICULT SITUATIONS
Genesis 42:29-43:14**

- I. WE MUST EXAMINE OUR THINKING AND ACTIONS IN LIGHT OF HIS WORD:
Jacob's selfishness is manifest in his not seeing and responding rightly to his circumstances, people and thus God (42:29-43:14)**
 - A. Jacob reveals his extreme selfishness as he blames his sons and holds onto Benjamin (42:29-38)**
 - B. Selfish Jacob, backed in his own corner, reluctantly and fatalistically lets go of Benjamin, while plotting and adding God in (43:1-14)**

- II. AS WE PLACE HIS WORD ACROSS OUR LIVES, WE NEED TO BE WILLING TO ASK AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS (42:29-43:14)**
 - A. Am I quick to blame others for the difficulties I encounter?** Jacob continually blamed others for his difficulties rather than seeing God as sovereign over his life and circumstances.
 - B. Is my view of life negative and fatalistic?** Jacob continually saw things negatively and fatalistically rather than seeing the Lord as sovereign over all.
 - C. Do I try to manipulate life's situations?** Jacob continued to manipulate situations to try to fulfill his desires rather than trusting Him and His Word.
 - D. Is the Lord truly part of my every day thinking or just when I need something?** Jacob effectively omitted God from his thinking unless it would benefit him.
 - E. Does any of Jacob's selfish behavior reflect my own?**

- III. WHAT TO DO IF MY SIN IS EXPOSED? Admit it, repent, renew and trust the Lord (Misc. Script)**