

# Genesis Study—Final Reconciliation

## Genesis 44-45

1. **Joseph sends them on their way Joseph puts money in his brothers' bags again. As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away:** The brothers left Egypt in high spirits. They were treated well, had their sacks full of grain, and Simeon was out of prison. Their father's fear of something \_\_\_\_\_ would not be fulfilled BUT **Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money:** As before, the grain sacks of the brothers are topped off by the money they paid for the grain, but this time, Joseph has his special silver cup put in the sack of Benjamin and it is discovered there.

**Why is Joseph doing this?** Some might think he is simply using his position of power to \_\_\_\_\_ his brothers in revenge for their cruelty towards him; but knowing the character of Joseph, he is letting God work in their hearts to bring them to \_\_\_\_\_. Was it a cup of Divination? While the Egyptians used such cups it doesn't imply Joseph used it that way.

2. **Each man loaded his donkey and returned:** When Joseph was taken as a slave the brothers allowed him to go and thought nothing of it. Judah commits himself and all the brothers to stick with Benjamin, even as slaves in Egypt. What a \_\_\_\_\_ for Judah! Now they are willing to stand with Benjamin as he faces slavery or death. This demonstrates a significant \_\_\_\_\_ and attitude of Joseph's brothers.

3. **God has found out the iniquity of your servants:** With these words, Judah revealed God's work among the brothers. In Judah's mind, the brothers are now destined to live the rest of their lives as slaves in Egypt because they sold Joseph as a slave some 20 years before.

The brothers were innocent of the sin of stealing the cup but were guilty of \_\_\_\_\_ sins. In the same way, we can pride ourselves because we are innocent of some sin or another, yet we are guilty of far greater. You can't hide from your sin. Time does not erase the guilt of your sin. Only the blood of Jesus can. This resignation to slavery in Egypt is all the more significant considering these were middle-aged men who came from lives of \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Judah tells Joseph the whole story from the beginning.** Confession is good for the soul! **Then Judah came near to him and said:** Of Judah's speech, F.B. Meyer wrote: "In all literature, there is nothing more pathetic than this appeal." H.C. Leupold wrote, "This is one of the manliest, most straightforward speeches ever delivered by any man. For depth of feeling and sincerity of purpose it stands unexcelled." Barnhouse called it "the most moving address in all the Word of God."

**When he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die:** 20 years before, Joseph's brothers showed a \_\_\_\_\_ of their father when reporting Joseph's "death" (Genesis 37:31-33). Judah shows they were now greatly concerned for the feelings and welfare of their father. **This is more evidence of a change of heart.** Judah lays down his life for Benjamin and his father. Now we see that Jesus was of the tribe of Judah.

5. **How shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me:** Judah was the one who suggested *selling* Joseph 20 years earlier. (Genesis 37:26-27) Here, he sensitively offers to lay down his life for the favored brother. This display of sacrificial love is another example of \_\_\_\_\_ in the brothers.

Moses was willing to offer himself for the salvation of Israel (Exodus 32:31-32), and so was Paul (Romans 9:1-4). \_\_\_\_\_ is evidence of our transformation (John 13:34).

**Through this chapter there is remarkable evidence of the changed hearts of Joseph's brothers.**

- They did not resent it when Benjamin was given the favored portion (43:34)
- They trusted each other, not accusing each other of wrong when accused of stealing the cup (44:9)
- They stuck together when the silver cup was found. They did not abandon the favored son (44:13)
- They completely humbled themselves for the sake of the favored son (44:14)
- They knew their predicament was the result of their sin against Joseph (44:16)
- They offered themselves as slaves to Egypt, not abandoning Benjamin, their brother (44:16)
- They showed due concern for how this might affect their father (44:29-31)
- Judah was willing to be a substitutionary sacrifice for his brother out of love for his father, brothers (44:33)

6. **The Big Day--Joseph reveals himself to his brothers.** But not rushing to reveal his identity we get a chance to see how this family of men have grown spiritually. This was very hard on Joe. **But what proof did Joseph have?** Well, there's that deal about **circumcision!!**

**But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence:** The brothers were **dismayed**. The ancient Hebrew word for **dismayed** (*bahal*) actually means, \_\_\_\_\_ *Come near to me* in Genesis 45:4 implies the brothers \_\_\_\_\_. Jewish legends say the brothers were so shocked that their souls left their bodies and it was only by a miracle of God their souls came back.

Their dismay is a shadow of what will happen when the Jews see Jesus for who He is again: *And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.* (Zechariah 12:10)

7. **Joseph's testimony.** Some definite catching up to do!

**God sent me before you to preserve life:** Joseph did not diminish what the brothers did (**whom you sold into Egypt**). Yet he saw that God's \_\_\_\_\_ in it all was greater than the evil of the brothers.

When we are sinned against we are tempted to fail in one or both of these areas. We are tempted to play "let's pretend you never did it," or we are tempted to fail to see the over-arching hand of God in every circumstance.

It is fair to ask, "Why was Joseph in Egypt? Was it because of the sin of his brothers or because of the good plan of God?" The answer is that \_\_\_\_\_. **So now it was not you who sent me here, but God:** Joseph realized *God* ruled his life, not good men, evil men, circumstances, or fate. God was in control, and because God was in control all things worked together for good.

If this family does not go into Egypt, then they probably assimilate with the pagan tribes of the Promised Land and cease to become a distinctive people. God had to put them in a place where they could grow, yet stay a distinctive nation.

**8. Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey:** The sons of Israel received transportation, provision, garments, and riches because of who their favored brother was. Pharaoh blessed the sons of Jacob for Joseph's sake.

**See that you do not become troubled along the way:** The idea behind the words "**become troubled**" is literally *become* \_\_\_\_\_. Joseph knew as soon as these men left his presence they would be tempted to act in selfish, unspiritual ways. They had to anticipate and guard against this.

**9. When Jacob hears the news what is his initial reaction?**

Jacob was told Joseph was dead and believed it. Then he was told Joseph was alive, and he did not believe it until his sons told him the words of Joseph and showed him the blessings that came to them through Joseph. Then he believed Joseph was alive, though he had \_\_\_\_\_. The only way people will know Jesus is alive is if we tell them His words and show them His blessings in our lives.

**It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive:** Knowing that the favored son was alive - back from the dead, as it were - changed Israel's testimony from *all these things are against me* (Genesis 42:36) to **it is enough**.