

Genesis Chapter Forty Four Workbook

Key Words:

Harmonize:

Consider Abraham's intercession in Genesis 18:17-33. How is it similar to Judah's plea in Genesis 44:18-34?

Dig:

- 1) Using chapter 38 and 44, write out a description of Judah's character.
- 2) What is the role of the steward in this chapter?
- 3) What was the punishment that the brothers agreed to? What punishment does the steward set?
- 4) Who do the brothers attribute the outcome of this situation to?
- 5) How is emotion displayed in chapter 44?
- 6) Judah's speech before Joseph is an act of intercession. How would he desire Joseph to respond?
- 7) Who are the brothers willing to sacrifice for? Why?

Discuss:

- 1) We are taught in the New Testament to love our enemies. What has the Lord used in your life to teach you this lesson?
- 2) What contributes to a sense of 'well-being' in your life?

Point of Prayer

Pray for a situation that you are aware of needing the Lord's justice.

Integrate:

What other scripture comes to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) Have you ever been robbed? What effect did this have on you?

- 2) In the midst of a trial/ crisis—do you anticipate a good outcome? Why or why not?

- 3) Have you ever set up a situation for the purpose of 'testing' your children in a matter? Explain.

- 4) Do you remember a time when someone acted with courage on your behalf?

- 5) Have you ever made an appeal to someone in authority? What was the situation? What was the outcome?

Genesis Chapter Forty Four

Genesis 44:1-6

Then he commanded his house steward, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack. And put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his money for the grain." And he did as Joseph had told him. As soon as it was light, the men were sent away, they with their donkeys. They had just gone out of the city, and were not far off, when Joseph said to his house steward, "Up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good? Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and which he indeed uses for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.'" So he overtook them and spoke these words to them.

- Joseph has decided upon a way to test his brothers hearts—similar in nature—judgment of Solomon
- Cup for divination—oil or water was poured into a bowl or cup. Omens were based on appearance of liquids inside the container. Cup was used to ritually forecast the future through divination (this is not how Joseph knew the future)
- Only a few hours since previous chapter—between the end of the banquet and dawn
- After partying with Joseph—perhaps brothers have a false sense of security.
- Joseph sets up an opportunity for brothers to be in the same situation they were in years before. Would they sacrifice a younger brother, beloved of their father, for their own sake
- Brothers leave for home—believing they have navigated the treacherous conditions of Egypt.

Genesis 44:7-11

And they said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing. Behold, the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks we have brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house? With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves." So he said, "Now let it also be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and the rest of you shall be innocent." Then they hurried, each man lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack.

- Punishment will be slavery rather than death

- Steward converts this situation into a chance for freedom at Benjamin's expense—their liberty is at stake in this situation.
- Only 20 pieces of silver was at stake in betraying Joseph.

Genesis 44:12-13

And he searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Then they tore their clothes, and when each man loaded his donkey, they returned to the city.

- Tearing clothes—sign of suffering grief—as though sentence of death was already upon them

Genesis 44:14-17

When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there, and they fell to the ground before him. And Joseph said to them, "What is this deed that you have done? Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed practice divination?" So Judah said, "What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord's slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found." But he said, "Far be it from me to do this. The man in whose possession the cup has been found, he shall be my slave; but as for you, go up in peace to your father."

- Judah is once more the brother to take initiative.
- Offers himself as a trade—which shows Joseph that his brothers have changed
- Given the opportunity—they choose not to send another brother into slavery.
- Judah had been the brother who argued to sell Joseph rather than kill him years ago.
- It appears that the brothers have never been free of a sense of guilt concerning their betrayal of Joseph
- They know they didn't take the cup—so see that God Himself must be at work in judging them
- Divination—considered by the Hebrews to be a heathen abomination (Lev 20:6, Deut 18:9-14, Num 23:23)
- They are convicted by the Holy Spirit—confessing their guilt

Genesis 44:18-29

Then Judah approached him, and said, "Oh my lord, may your servant please speak a word in my lord's ears, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are equal to Pharaoh. My lord asked his servants,

saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?' And we said to my lord, 'We have an old father and a little child of his old age. Now his brother is dead, so he alone is left of his mother, and his father loves him.' Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.' But we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.' You said to your servants, however, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see my face again.' Thus it came about when we went up to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. And our father said, 'Go back, buy us a little food.' But we said, "We cannot go down. If our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us. And your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons; and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn in pieces," and I have not seen him since. And if you take this one also from me, and harm befalls him, you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow.

- Years before—brothers had been willing to grieve their father with their actions toward Joseph. Jacob's favoritism of Joseph and Benjamin is due to his favoritism toward Rachel.
- This is a test—are the brothers willing to grieve their father concerning Benjamin—to save themselves? Would the brothers revert to former behavior in a test?
- Joseph hears Judah's intercession—knowing that both Benjamin and he are safe

Genesis 44:30-34

Now, therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life, it will come about when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. Thus your servants will bring the gray hair of your servant our father down to Sheol in sorrow. For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then let me bear the blame before my father forever. Now, therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest I see the evil that would overtake my father?"

- Joseph's brothers confess their guilt in the sight of God—Gen 44:16—
(Type of Christ: Jesus fulfills in Acts 3:19-20)