

The Second Test

Genesis Chapter 44

Gen 44:1 **1) The Second Test** vs 1-17

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.

Gen 44:2 "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.}

- *They are getting set up again.*
- *A second test is set up and this time it is to test how they care about Rachel's Offspring*

Gen 44:3 As soon as it was light, the men were sent away, they with their donkeys.

Gen 44:4 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?

Gen 44:5 'Is not this the one from which my lord drinks and which he indeed uses for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.' "

Gen 44:6 So he overtook them and spoke these words to them.

- *Joseph gave them some time to travel out of the city. He orders his men to catch them and accuse them of stealing his divination cup*
- *This was a cup used by Egyptian magicians to read the light that reflected off of it. Much like reading tea leaves. Joseph had a Divine Spirit who leads him. He does not use this cup but in the accusation it provided a sense of seriousness.*

Gen 44:7 They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing.

Gen 44:8 "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?

Gen 44:9 "With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."

- *Foolish Oath. They started strong in their defense saying they brought back the money from the first visit plus some to buy more. Why would they steal a cup*
- *But they go further in their defense offering a death penalty to any one found with it. They didn't know it was put in their sack from Joseph's steward.*

Gen 44:10 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."

Gen 44:11 Then they hurried, each man lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack.

Gen 44:12 He searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

Gen 44:13 Then they tore their clothes, and when each man loaded his donkey, they returned to the city.

- *What a heart stopping moment when the cup was produced from Benjamin's bag. You could sense a relief becoming ever stronger as each bag was clean until they all looked at that last bag. Benjamin's!!! I'm sure their hearts were racing with the thought, "Oh Man!! No! It better not!" Then their worst fear appeared.*

Gen 44:14 When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there, and they fell to the ground before him.

- *Even tho the steward said only the guilty the rest are innocent and can leave, all the brothers went back. None of them left Benjamin.*

Gen 44:15 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?"

- Gen 44:16 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."
- Gen 44:17 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."
- *Joseph gives them another opportunity to abandon Benjamin.*
- Gen 44:18 **1) Judah's Plea** vs 18-34 Has Judah Changed? Compare w/vow in 43:8-9. 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."
- *Respectful recognizing the roles of a Ruler and a Hebrew Shepherd.*
- Gen 44:19 "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?'
- *Seeking commonality.*
- Gen 44:20 "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.'
- Gen 44:21 "Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me that I may set my eyes on him.'
- Gen 44:22 "But we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'
- Gen 44:23 "You said to your servants, however, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.'
- Gen 44:24 "Thus it came about when we went up to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.
- Gen 44:25 "Our father said, 'Go back, buy us a little food.'
- Gen 44:26 "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.'
- Gen 44:27 "Your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons;
- Gen 44:28 and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn in pieces," and I have not seen him since.
- *This is the first time Joseph hears what his father thinks happened to him.*
- Gen 44:29 'If you take this one also from me, and harm befalls him, you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow.'
- *Truthfully recounts the story*
- Gen 44:30 "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,
- Gen 44:31 when he sees that the lad is not {with us,} he will die. Thus your servants will bring the gray hair of your servant our father down to Sheol in sorrow.
- Gen 44:32 "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.'
- Gen 44:33 "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.
- *Judah asks to take the place of Benjamin. A substitutionary act. Judah has Changed!!*
 - *Notice he doesn't say he didn't do it. He just offers to pay the penalty so another can go free.*
 - *Jesus does this for us.*
 - *He paid a debt he did not owe.
I owed a debt I could not pay.
I needed someone to wash my sins away. Amazing Grace
For Jesus Paid a debt that I could never pay.*

Gen 44:34 "For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me--for fear that I see the evil that would overtake my father?"

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

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