

Let your servant remain instead of the boy

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Genesis 44-45

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Where are we?

- Discord with his brothers/father and tested by God
 - Bad Reports
 - Dreams
 - Envious Coat
 - Hated and Sold
 - Potiphar's Wife
 - Prison
- Gave God the credit for the interpretation of dreams
- Excess and Famine
- The testing begins
 - Brothers' 1st and 2nd Journey, now about to return home
 - Read Genesis 44:1-11

Servant Searches for the Cup

What is Joseph's goal?

The Test	Will they abandon another favored son of Jacob, as they abandoned Joseph years earlier? Or, will they be loyal to Benjamin, even at considerable personal risk?
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Discovery	Genesis 44:12-13
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A Contrast of Torn Clothes

- In Genesis 37, the brothers sold Joseph into slavery.
 - Reuben tore his clothes upon discovering Joseph missing.
 - Jacob later tore his clothes when he believed Joseph had been killed.
- In Genesis 44, **all** the brothers tear their clothes when Benjamin appears destined for slavery.
- Years earlier, the brothers used a garment to cover up their sin. Now they tear their own garments. Is there significance in that contrast?

Tearing Ones Clothes

Reuben	Distress upon discovering Joseph missing from the pit
Jacob	Grief upon believing Joseph was dead
Joshua	Anguish following Israel's defeat at Ai
David	Mourning the deaths of Saul and Jonathan
King Josiah	Humiliation and Repentance upon hearing God's Law
High priest	Outrage when he considered that Jesus blasphemed

When the brothers tore their clothes, was that evidence of repentance, or was it simply evidence of fear and grief?

The Response

Judah's 1st response to Joseph

Genesis 44:14-17

Judah's approach and response

Genesis 44:18-34

Judah's Heart – Transformed!

- Judah proposed selling Joseph into slavery.
- Neither Judah nor the brothers tell Jacob the truth.
- Judah promised Jacob that he would be responsible for Benjamin. He was putting his own honor and standing before his father at risk. Judah is not promising that he can guarantee Benjamin's safety under every circumstance. He is pledging to accept the consequences if he fails to bring him home.
- Now, he offers himself as a slave in Benjamin's place. Rather than sacrificing his brother to save himself, he is willing to sacrifice himself to save his brother.
- Judah's willingness to suffer in Benjamin's place demonstrates a profound change of heart. His concern is no longer merely for himself but for Benjamin and for his father, whose grief he cannot bear to cause again.

Judah's Change of Heart

Do you feel sorry for the brothers?

Has Joseph gone too far?

Joseph's Response – Reconciliation!

- Joseph's Response – Genesis 45:1-15
- Imagine the emotion in the room. Here were the brothers expecting to be punished, and the #2 man in Egypt breaks down emotionally. They have no reason why until he speaks "I am Joseph." They are stunned.
- Have you ever expected bad news and received good news instead?

Joseph's Response – Reconciliation!

- He asked if his father was still alive.
- He asked them to come near.
- Don't be distressed or angry with yourselves.
- Joseph doesn't hold a grudge but gives them grace. God brought good out of their evil intentions so that His ultimate will, His promises for this family, subsequent generations, and all nations would be fulfilled.
- It was to preserve life, a remnant (then and now!)

Joseph's Response – Reconciliation!

- Go and tell dad that I'm alive and lord over Egypt.
- Joseph invites them to move to Egypt, and not to wait for there are 5 more years of famine.
- Bring all your flocks, herds, children, and grandchildren – “all that you have.”
- Still unsure, they recognize Joseph as he speaks and they tearfully embrace again.

Joseph's Response – Reconciliation!

- Genesis 45:15-24
- In Goshen Joseph will provide for them. How does that strike you?
- Each received a change of clothes but for Benjamin:
 - 300 shekels of silver
 - 5 changes of clothes
- Joseph said, “Do not quarrel on the way.”

Jacob's Response – “his heart became numb”

- “They” told Jacob that Joseph was still alive, the ruler over Egypt
- I imagine that Jacob was more surprised than the brothers were.
- It wasn't simply seeing what was brought from Egypt, but when Jacob heard the words of Joseph that he believed.
- Then he replied, “I will go and see him before I die.”

Foreshadowing of Jesus

- Judah's self-sacrifice for his brother was for the sake of his father – Christ's self-sacrifice was for the sake of all
- Judah offers himself as a prisoner – Jesus gave His life
- Judah offered himself for his brother – Jesus gave Himself for His enemies
- Joseph took nothing from his brothers – Jesus saved us all by Himself, we add nothing
- Joseph prepared for his family to live in Egypt – Jesus prepared for His brothers and sisters to live with Him in eternity

What has been revealed?

- The cup
- Joseph is alive and second to Pharaoh
- God's faithfulness to His promises
- The brothers' guilt
- Judah's changed heart – his repentance
- Judah – spokesman (not Ruben)
- God's grace and forgiveness through Joseph

Our Reconciliation

- For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,” (Ephesians 2:8)
- But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. (Romans 3:21-25)