



The Pattern of Salvation

Community Group Study Guide: Genesis 44 – Week of July 9, 2023

1. The Pattern of Salvation

We see through the last few chapters of this story, that the conscience of the brothers is beginning to awaken. They start to acknowledge more and more their wrong doings. In chapter 44, we see an inculcation of the pattern of salvation played out in this portion of story. After returning to Egypt, and being accepted by Joseph as honest men, the brothers seem to relax a bit. They seem to grow in their self-confidence. This pride is put to the test, when Joseph executes a plan to test his brothers. Joseph sends his servants to reveal that one of them had taken the drinking cup of Joseph. When confronted, the brothers seem to boast in their righteousness, offering to give themselves to slavery and death should the cup be found amongst them. To the brother's dismay, the cup is found in the bag of Benjamin. This is a horrific turn of events, because they have now pledged Benjamin to punishment, which would also bring about the death of their father. All the brothers, not just Benjamin, return to Egypt to plead with Joseph. Judah, the brother who initiated the sale of Joseph into slavery, begs Joseph for an alternative. He starts with admitting that he and his brothers are guilty before God. They have sinned and are worthy of judgement. He reminds Joseph that if Benjamin does not return, Jacob will perish. In tandem to his confessed guilt, to his desire for his father not to be wronged, and for freedom of Benjamin, Judah offers himself in the place of brother. In this process, we see the pattern of salvation. The pride in our sinful ways, the confession of our sins, and the humbling ourselves at the mercy of the authority. When we approach God this way, He receives us, and builds us up again in His grace by the atoning work of Christ on our behalf.

2. The Pattern of Transformation

- a. God is going to find us out
- b. We need to learn to listen to when we feel like God is

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

All have sinned, and sin will find you out. We have nothing in which to boast. The only hope that we have is to humble ourselves, confess our sins, and turn to God for mercy. In His grace, He forgives us, redeems us, and restores us to Himself.

Heart

As Christians, we must see our sorrow and guilt as areas to surrender to God. We need to repent in our hearts, and turn to God, who is the only one that can relieve us of that burden.

Hands

Repentance brings about a change of behavior. We should approach God with a new attitude, asking the Lord to reveal and remove the sin in our lives. One of our primary pursuits is to replace sin with obedience to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent Commissioning Class
July 16th @ 1 pm
Membership 101
July 23rd @ 1 pm

being silent.

- c. Prideful sin is just as dangerous and blinding as rebellious sin
- d. God changes people
- e. We need to repent of our sin
- f. We need to receive the forgiveness of God
- g. We need to seek forgiveness from others
- h. We need to love others sacrificially

Read Genesis 44

1. This passage is often described as Joseph “testing” his brothers. How were the brothers tested in this passage? What was the purpose of this test? What was revealed?
2. What areas of your life or in what giftings do you find yourself tempted towards self-righteousness? How can you use that area or gift for the Gospel?
3. What can we learn from the brother’s attitude in verse 7-10? What does it reveal about their hearts?
4. How does self-righteousness ultimately bring about anxiety and lack of peace? How does the Gospel correct our self-righteousness and also bring peace?
5. In your own words, explain the idea “We need to learn to listen to when we feel like God is being silent.” What actions should be taken in these moments?
6. What does it look like to receive forgiveness from God? What things hinder us from God’s forgiveness? How does that forgiveness change us? How then does receiving forgiveness from God effect our forgiveness to others?
7. Where in the pattern of transformation have you found yourself challenged in? What has been profitable in helping you grow along the way?