

## THE TRUTH COMES OUT | GENESIS 43-44 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 5/26/2024

\*I. Testing His Brothers (43) | II. Framing His Brothers (44)

**INTRO:** Jesus said that *“There is nothing hidden that will not be seen...”* (Mark 4:22). When we study the Life of Joseph, we see that his life reveals one of the greatest ordeals of PAIN and FORGIVENESS ever recorded. In these three chapters, we see ultimately that **THE TRUTH “Dramatically” COMES OUT** in a twofold manner...

**I. TESTING HIS BROTHERS (43:1-34)** – In the previous chapter (42), Joseph crafted a plan to make the sons of Jacob acknowledge their sin and guilt as it related to their brother Joseph. When they got back home, they had grain but **No Simeon!** To their surprise, **their money was discovered in each of their sacks**, which led Jacob to exclaim that *everything was against him!*

Now the...

READ

**A. Brothers FORCED to Return (1-14)** – Because the famine continued, Jacob’s family needed additional grain to survive. But in order to buy grain and get Simeon out of jail, **they had to deal with the issue of bringing Benjamin**, Jacob's son (1-2)

1. In (v.3-10) Judah **REASONS** with Jacob – *Benjamin is required!* | Judah offers surety (9)
2. In (v.11-14) Israel is **FORCED to comply** – Only because his hands were forced was *He willing to accept the worst, which manifested in a pessimistic attitude.* (Lack of hope!)

**P/A – What a rough situation!** – Sometimes life circumstances force us to respond! **How do you handle it?** – Is God with you? – (Job 13:15) says, *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him!*

Next we see the...

READ

**B. Brothers EXPLAIN the Mishap (15-25)** – When Joseph saw Benjamin standing before him, he immediately instructed his steward to bring them to his home (15-17).

1. The *transfer to Joseph’s home triggered a fearful presumption in them* regarding the money in their sacks (18-22). They explained the details of their innocence to the steward!
2. The Steward speaks **PEACE to them (23)** – He said, *“God put the treasure into your sacks”* **Whoa! He knew who their God was!** – This reminds me of Jesus, who spoke PEACE to His disciples, *“Let not your hearts be troubled...”* (John 14:1;27) (We tend to presume the worst!)
  - Simeon now joins them (23b-25), which brought even more peace, so they made the present from their father ready for the Governor.

**P/A – They did not know that all this was a TEST.** (It’s best to be truthful when misunderstanding takes place)

READ

**C. Brothers FEAST with Joseph (26-34)** – In (v.26,28) we now see **the fulfillment of Joseph’s dreams**, as all brothers are present (37:5-9) – Many years prior, *his brothers said to him, “Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?”* **So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. (37:8)** – As they bowed here, they were **clueless** of it!

1. Joseph **Inquired of Their Father (27-28)** – *Is he well... is he alive?* (He calls him the old man!)

**2. Joseph Identifies Benjamin (29-31)** – Then **speaks a Blessing upon him**, may “*God be gracious to you, my son.*” – At those words, Joseph became **Emotionally Overwhelmed... imagine the scene!** – He had to **remove himself**, so as NOT to reveal his plot! He **Wept, Washed** his face to gain his composure, then gave the next command... “*Serve the Bread.*”

**3. Joseph’s Inequity (32-34)** – **He gave MORE to Benjamin!** – He also seated his brothers in order, from birthright to youngest – **THEY WERE ASTONISHED!** *It tested the attitudes of his brothers!*

**Closing Thought:** **What an Odd Scene...Awkward** for the brothers sitting... awaiting judgment, **NOW making merry with the Governor?** – On the other hand, **Joseph** ...being as patient as he could... **was Ready to Burst again in tears!** – *However, Joseph was secretly working on...*

**II. FRAMING HIS BROTHERS (44:1-34)** – Everything was going more smoothly than they could have imagined. The brothers were cleared of the money they discovered in their sacks and were even escorted to Joseph's house for dinner before returning to Canaan with both Simeon and Benjamin! **But unbeknownst to them...**

READ

**A. Joseph DEvised a Master Plan (1-13)** – Joseph had his servant **stash his Silver Cup in Benjamin’s sack** along with the money, to set his brothers up for the **SHOCK** of their lives (1-3).

a. When the steward caught up with them (4-6), **he charged them**, asking... “**Why have you paid evil for good?**” by stealing his masters cup. (*An accusation, but also A Question of their moral standards, which Joseph wanted to press!*) – **Joseph’s cup** was a symbol of his authority as an Egyptian Vizier, which could be associated with divination or hydromancy, yet Joseph used it as a front.

b. **The brothers protested the charge (7-10)**, by recalling their prior innocence. They even **pronounced death on the guilty one** and slavery upon themselves if it were found among them. – So, the steward held them to their own words and searched them (11-12a). (*Notice the order!*)

c. **The Cup was Found in Benjamin’s Sack! (12b-13)** – **It left the brothers in shock!** – **No, not Benjamin!** – They tore their clothes and **headed back to Egypt with Benjamin** (*a Devotion test!*)

Now in Egypt...

READ

**B. Judah SURRENDERS them All to be Slaves (14-17)** – As they fell before Joseph again, **Joseph pulls out a confession from them (15)**. – Then **Judah speaks up**, “*What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? “God has found out” the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord’s slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found.*” – They had **NO ANSWER** for the theft of the CUP! And as family spokesman, **Judah** recognized that **GOD WAS EXPOSING THEIR SIN** from so long ago... **SO HE CONFESSED IT!**

- **It may sound vengeful**, but **Joseph’s Plan** was to bring about “*genuine repentance*” and “*confession,*” which would allow “*genuine restoration and reconciliation*” between them!
- Likewise, **God exposes our sins!** **Yes, we too have been found out!** The gospel makes it clear that **WE ARE ALL GUILTY** before our God! **(Rom 3:19)** says... “*to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*”

- **If you have asked God to forgive your sins**, your life will genuinely change! **TIME will reveal if your repentance is true:** a) By the acknowledgment of the wrong you have done in the past b) By the asking of forgiveness of those you come across in life, c) By the giving of yourself sacrificially, rather than being a taker, like before, d) By having a heart of compassion!
- In (v.17) **Joseph continues to play the part** by showing integrity in judgment, which in turn laid a heavier burden on the brothers... *'Benjamin is guilty, so he will be my SLAVE... but YOU can go in peace!'* – At this word from the Governor, now Judah...

READ

**C. Judah PLEADS with Joseph (18-34)** – Notice first **Judah's Disposition (18)** ... He **Boldy** but **Respectfully 'steps up'** to speak, **so as to intercede!** – As he did for Joseph back in (37:26).

First, we learn of...

READ

**1. Judah's Dilemma (19-31)** – He first recalls the governor's conversation and requirement (19-23). He then informs the governor of the exchange with their father, concluding that **Benjamin was TOO PRECIOUS to Israel their father to let go (24-30)**, concluding that *their Father will DIE at the news of Benjamin's Slavery (31)*.

Then we read of...

READ

**2. Judah's Demand (32-34)** – *He offered himself because he became surety for his brother!* – I find this is interesting, because the name **'JUDAH'** means: **PRAISE!** What do you do when you are in a jam such as this? **OFFER PRAISE** to the One that you have offended... **The Lord!** – *Judah also offered himself* because he did not want to see his father's reaction at such evil news! (Perhaps, *the lie of Joseph's mauling effected their father so much that he couldn't do that again!*)

- **It was TOO MUCH for Judah...** it was too much for **Jacob...** it was too much for the **Brothers...** Ah, but it was especially too much for the Disguised Governor: JOSEPH! – The once dead Brother, the Dreamer... who watched all his brothers bow down before him... **POV!** – And so, **JUDAH'S PLEA BROKE JOSEPH!** He could no longer RESTRAIN himself...

**Next Week:** We learn of how Jacob reveals himself to his brothers. *But in Closing...*

**How did Joseph handle all this?** With tactful grace and genuine forgiveness! **And you and I can do the same when suffering:** (1 Pet. 4:19) *"Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator."*

**An interesting parallel is found in Joseph** revealing himself to his brothers the second time; Jesus will also reveal himself to the Jews at His second Coming! (Zech 12:10) *"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."*

(Phil 2:10-11) *"Every knee will bow, tongue confess ..."*