



JOSEPH

The brothers (part 2)

Genesis 44

¹ Joseph commanded his steward, “Fill the men’s bags with as much food as they can carry, and put each one’s silver at the top of his bag. ² Put my cup, the silver one, at the top of the youngest one’s bag, along with the silver for his grain.” So he did as Joseph told him.

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

⁴ They had not gone very far from the city when Joseph said to his steward, “Get up. Pursue the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good?’ ⁵ Isn’t this the cup that my master drinks from and uses for divination? What you have done is wrong!’ ”

JOSEPH

The man doth protest too much,
methinks...

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- Simple Denial (7a)

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The man doth protest too much, methinks...

- Simple Denial (7a)
- Oath (7b)

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- Simple Denial (7a)
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- Previous Conduct (8)

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The man doth protest too much, methinks...

- Simple Denial (7a)
- Oath (7b)
- Previous Conduct (8)
- Offer of Extreme Consequences
(9)

JOSEPH
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Genesis 44

⁶ When he overtook them, he said these words to them. ⁷ They said to him, “Why does my lord say these things? Your servants could not possibly do such a thing. ⁸ We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the silver we found at the top of our bags. How could we steal silver or gold from your master’s house? ⁹ If it is found with one of us, your servants, he must die, and the rest of us will become my lord’s slaves.”

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

¹⁰ The steward replied, “What you have said is right, but only the one who is found to have it will be my slave, and the rest of you will be blameless.” ¹¹ So each one quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it. ¹² The steward searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack. ¹³ Then they tore their clothes, and each one loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

¹⁴ When Judah and his brothers reached Joseph's house, he was still there. They fell to the ground before him. ¹⁵ "What have you done?" Joseph said to them. "Didn't you know that a man like me could uncover the truth by divination?"

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

¹⁶ “What can we say to my lord?” Judah replied. “How can we plead? How can we justify ourselves? God has exposed your servants’ iniquity. We are now my lord’s slaves — both we and the one in whose possession the cup was found.” ¹⁷ Then Joseph said, “I swear that I will not do this. The man in whose possession the cup was found will be my slave. The rest of you can go in peace to your father.”

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

¹⁸ But Judah approached him and said, “My lord, please let your servant speak personally to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, for you are like Pharaoh. ¹⁹ My lord asked his servants, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’ ²⁰ and we answered my lord, ‘We have an elderly father and a younger brother, the child of his old age. The boy’s brother is dead. He is the only one of his mother’s sons left, and his father loves him.’”

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

²¹ Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him to me so that I can see him.' ²² But we said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father. If he were to leave, his father would die.' ²³ Then you said to your servants, 'If your younger brother does not come down with you, you will not see me again.'

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

²⁴ “This is what happened when we went back to your servant my father: We reported to him the words of my lord. ²⁵ But our father said, ‘Go again, and buy us a little food.’ ²⁶ We told him, ‘We cannot go down unless our younger brother goes with us. If our younger brother isn’t with us, we cannot see the man.’”

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

²⁷ Your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons. ²⁸ One is gone from me — I said he must have been torn to pieces—and I have never seen him again. ²⁹ If you also take this one from me and anything happens to him, you will bring my gray hairs down to Sheol in sorrow.’

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

³⁰ “So if I come to your servant my father and the boy is not with us — his life is wrapped up with the boy’s life — ³¹ when he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die. Then your servants will have brought the gray hairs of your servant our father down to Sheol in sorrow. ³² Your servant became accountable to my father for the boy, saying, ‘If I do not return him to you, I will always bear the guilt for sinning against you, my father.’”

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

³³ Now please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave, in place of the boy. Let him go back with his brothers.

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Genesis 44

³³ Now please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave, in place of the boy. Let him go back with his brothers.

FLASHBACK

Genesis 37

²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"

²⁷ Come on, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay a hand on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh," and his brothers agreed.

JOSEPH

Genesis 44

³⁴ For how can I go back to my father without the boy? I could not bear to see the grief that would overwhelm my father.”

JOSEPH

“Everything falls short of thorough repentance which does not prevent us from committing the sin anew. We do not so much desire to be accurately informed about our past sins, and to get right views of our past selves; we wish to be no longer sinners, we wish to pass through some process by which we may be separated from that in us which has led us into sin. Such a process there is, for these men passed through it.”

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The Book of Genesis, Marcus Dods, 1893. Expositor's Bible.
London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1893, p. 387

Ezekiel 36

²⁵ I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

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