

Passage: Genesis 44

Title: Mercy

Summary: Our passage culminates with the brothers of Joseph have come to the end of their end, and all they have left is to cry out for mercy. Mercy.... ever want it? When you do want it, it will cry from the depth of your heart to receive it, nothing else in life will seem to matter at that moment. Mercy..... ever receive it? When you do receive it, it will be as a kiss of God, for mercy is the heart of God. Mercy.... ever give it? When you do, it will be the very heart of God to the brokenhearted.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Last Study / Dream Passes / Joseph Tests their Hearts – Any Repentance

In chapter 42 we saw Joseph's dream come to pass as his 10 brothers (Benjamin not included) came to Egypt to buy grain for the famine was severe in all the lands. His brothers bow down before him just as he had dreamed some 20 years prior. Joseph then starts to work on his brothers to see where their heart was at, were they as mean and callous some 20 years later, as they were when they sold him into slavery. Was his brother Benjamin all right, how was his father Jacob, was he still alive. Was there any repentance in their hearts for the thing they had done to him?

Works Them / Spies / Imprisoned / Money in the Sacks

So Joseph works them, he accuses them of being spies to start this drawing out process. They say we are not, we are sons of one father, and we have 2 other brothers, one is at home, and the other is not. Joseph cast them all into prison, but after 3 days of thinking about it he says ok one will stay here (Simeon), and the rest will go home, and when you return for more grain your younger brother had better be with you or else I know you are spies. Then just to stir it up a little more, Joseph has his servant put their money they brought to buy the grain, back into the sacks of grain, so it makes them look as thieves.

Sons Released / Jacob – Gen 45 / Gen 44

When they return they tell Jacob all that happened, and Jacob says all these things are against me. As we had said last study, Jacob had no idea that all things were working together for good. Jacob's faith was weak, he forgot all the past promises of God, he had no idea that chapter 45 was coming! So chapter 44 they return to Egypt to buy more grain for they are now out. Benjamin is with them and Joseph has to run out of the room when he sees Benjamin for the first time in some 20 plus years, a picture of Jesus Christ when He sees us in heaven if our minds can grasp that. So they all sit and eat together and all are merry: now the boys are heading back to Jacob, and Joseph has one more roughing up for them to see where their hearts are.

Outline: Genesis 44

- The Brothers Head Home; Entering into 1 Last Test (44:1-9)
- Benjamin is Called Guilty; But United the Brothers Stand (44:10-13)
- Judah Intercedes for the Family; Now God Can Really Work (44:14-34)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?

- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The Brothers Head Home; Entering into 1 Last Test (44:1-9)

(Genesis 44:1 NKJV) And he commanded the steward of his house, 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.

Money in Sack trick / Gomer Pyle

It is the old money in the sack trick again, how could you fall for that one again (haahaa). Gomer Pyle use to always say, fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me. If it was me, I would check my sack, and check it again to make sure the money mix up didn't happen again. It is like in the airport, I make sure I don't put my laptop on the x-ray belt until right before I am ready to go through the metal detector myself, so as to remove the conman who waits on the other side and acts like it is his while you are being held up by security. You think these boys would have checked, but they don't.

(Genesis 44:2 NKJV) "Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money." So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

Silver – 20 pieces / Joseph doesn't Use Divining Cup

Notice it was silver cup, maybe just a little reminder to them for selling him for 20 pieces of silver. In Egypt this silver cup represented authority, rulers would have a silver cup and they would use it to determine god's will for what they should do by the leading of their gods. It was called a "divining cup". Now, from our study of Joseph's character we have no reason to believe that Joseph would use it for such a thing, for he as we have seen was a man solely sold out to the Lord. So my opinion is that they (Pharaoh's support people) because that is what they do; hey you are a leader therefore you need a cup to talk to god so you know how to lead. Joseph probably kept spare change in it or something.

I Still get Divining Cups / World Doesn't Understand

You know, I still get "divining cups" from well meaning people. Unsaved people give me books for Christmas or my birthday on the "spiritual" things; and you open up those books and they are so far from God it is ridiculous. They are new age, or all religions are one, or lets not offend anyone, spiritual books. Some of them give me the creeps when I see them, so religious, and I am so unreligious, I just love Jesus. Still to this day friends and family offer me alcohol, when I come to their home, I think it has been 30+ years why do you even set a class before me. You know the world doesn't know, they don't understand the change that has happened to you, exactly the Scriptures says they won't:

(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Opportunities to Talk / Open Doors

Some of these "divining cups" are the perfect opportunity to open the door to talk about the things of the spirit with them, so use them. Beloved, plant spiritual seeds as you go, a minute here, a minute there. Be careful not to embarrass them, and make them feel stupid, do it very delicately and gently, and again you have to be in tune with the Lord so you know when to, and when not to. God continually opens doors of opportunity for us to share the Good News, look for them, and use them.

(Genesis 44:3 NKJV) As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys.

(Genesis 44:4 NKJV) When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?'

(Genesis 44:5 NKJV) 'Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.'"

(Genesis 44:6 NKJV) So he overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words.

Servant Did as Told

So the servant did as he was told.

(Genesis 44:7 NKJV) And they said to him, "Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing.

(Genesis 44:8 NKJV) "Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?

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

Not Thieves

Trying to make a point that if we were thieves why would we have brought the money back from our first trip. They're saying, if we were thieves, why did we bring the money back? Making that logical point that we were thieves, we would have never brought the money back. to start with.

Last Time is Reason Enough / Gather Facts before you Jump – 1%

Just repeating what happened last time should be enough reason to say, it could be possible, we were so sure we paid last time, and then somehow the money ended up in our sacks. You know, I have found it best that if there is any possibility that I could be wrong about something, that I will leave that possibility open until all the facts are gathered. I hate to say I was wrong after I so adamantly said there is no way that I could be wrong.

Examples at Home & Work

Son, how many times have I told you not to touch my computer, you are grounded.....what's that, it was your mother who used it, opps. Hey co-worker get off my back, I entered all my data, I worked late last night, how dare you say that.....what's that, we are using revision C now instead of Revision B, opps.

Good Witness / If Wrong Easier to Say Sorry

If you are right, it is the other person that has to say I'm sorry, I wrong accused you, so you come out looking great. First you didn't get in their face or get an attitude, so that is a great witness, and secondly if you are wrong it is easier to say, opps my mistake, sorry about that. Once pride enters in, emotions start to run, the formula for a blow-out fight is in place.

Humble Thyself

Humble thyself and the Lord will lift you up:

(James 4:10 NKJV) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Ephesians 4:30-32

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Can I bring a word here regarding humility (I am an expert on the matter – unfortunately from the side of the lack of it). Humility is not seeking self, but others, as in taking them and getting them into the presence of God, taking them to the throne of grace. Humility asks, and takes every situation and asks how can I take this person, get this person into the presence of God so He can work in their life, or they can find peace in their life, so they can experience the love of God.

Ephesians 4 tells us what will grieve the Spirit, breaks His heart, as we break each others heart, but also what pleases the Spirit, and warms His heart as we warm each other's heart.

How many relationships have ended, been destroyed, that could have been saved and endured and been blessed had one or both of the people willingly sacrificed their pride and sought true humility.

Here's a word study for Ephesians 4:31, which says:

Context Overview

Ephesians 4 is part of Paul's call for believers to "walk worthy of the calling" (v. 1). Verses 25–32 focus on replacing the old nature with the new—putting off sinful attitudes and behaviors and putting on Christlike love and forgiveness. Verse 31 lists six destructive attitudes to "put away," contrasting with the tenderness and forgiveness of verse 32.

Word Study Breakdown (Greek Terms)

1. Bitterness — πικρία (pikria, Strong's G4088)

- Root meaning: sharpness, acrid, pungent.
- Usage: bitterness of taste or spirit; resentful animosity that poisons relationships.
- Related passages: Acts 8:23 ("gall of bitterness"); Hebrews 12:15 ("root of bitterness").
- Insight: Bitterness begins inwardly—a heart unwilling to release hurt—and often breeds

the following emotions.

2. Wrath — θυμός (thymos, Strong's G2372)

- Root meaning: boiling agitation, passionate outburst, fury.
- Usage: often used for short-lived explosions of anger.
- Contrast: Different from orge (anger), which can be a sustained inner disposition.
- Illustration: a sudden flare-up—like fire igniting straw.

3. Anger — ὀργή (orgē, Strong's G3709)

- Root meaning: settled indignation, lasting resentment.
- Usage: the slow-burning, deliberate kind of anger that nurses a grudge.
- Cross-reference: James 1:20 ("the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of

God").

- Spiritual point: while thymos is momentary wrath, orgē is the smoldering coal beneath it.

4. Clamor — κραυγή (kraugē, Strong's G2906)

- Root meaning: loud crying, shouting, outcry.
- Usage: noisy argument, public shouting match, or emotional outburst.
- Image: the chaos that erupts when wrath is voiced.

5. Evil speaking — βλασφημία (blasphēmia, Strong's G988)

- Root meaning: slander, abusive speech, defamation.
- Usage: can mean blasphemy against God or slander against people.
- Implication: harmful words spoken from a bitter heart.
- Cross-reference: Colossians 3:8 lists blasphēmia alongside anger and filthy

communication.

6. Malice — κακία (kakia, Strong's G2549)

- Root meaning: general moral evil, wickedness; ill will.
- Usage: the underlying attitude wishing harm on others.
- Summary: the root that feeds all the previous sins—an evil disposition of heart.

Paul's list is progressive:

- Bitterness (internal) → Wrath (boiling emotion) → Anger (settled hostility) → Clamor (verbal outburst) → Evil speaking (destructive words) → Malice (evil intent). This shows the growth pattern of unrestrained resentment—what starts as bitterness inside ends in malice toward others.

Theological and Practical Insight

- "Put away" (airo, "remove, lift off") implies deliberate action—like taking off dirty garments (see v. 22).

- The contrast in Ephesians 4:32 (“Be kind... forgiving one another”) shows that the cure for bitterness is grace and forgiveness.

Here’s a detailed word study for Ephesians 4:32, the verse that completes and contrasts the list from verse 31:

Context Overview

Ephesians 4:31–32 forms a pair of contrasts — what to put away (v. 31) and what to put on (v. 32).

Paul moves from the corruption of bitterness and anger to the character of Christ: kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. This is the relational evidence of walking “in the new man” (Eph 4:24).

Word Study Breakdown (Greek Terms)

1. “Be” — γίνεσθε (ginesthe, from ginomai, Strong’s G1096)

- Meaning: “keep on becoming,” “be continually becoming.”
- Tense/Voice: Present middle imperative — an ongoing command.
- Implication: Not a one-time change but a continual transformation — becoming ever more Christlike in relationships.
- Idea: “Keep on showing yourselves to be...”

2. “Kind” — χρηστοί (chrēstoi, Strong’s G5543)

- Root meaning: useful, gracious, good, gentle, benevolent.
- Used of God: “For My yoke is easy (chrēstos)” — Matthew 11:30.
- Moral sense: a goodness that is gentle in action and gracious in tone.
- Contrast: harshness, severity, or self-interest.
- Cross-references:
- Romans 2:4 — “the goodness (chrēstotēs) of God leads you to repentance.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:4 — “Love is kind (chrēsteuetai).”
- Insight: Kindness is love with work clothes on — practical goodness that meets needs

tenderly.

3. “Tenderhearted” — εὐσπλαγχνοί (eusplanchnoi, Strong’s G2155)

- Root meaning: from eu (“good”) + splagchna (“inner organs,” the seat of emotion/compassion).
- Literal idea: “having good intestines,” i.e., deeply compassionate from one’s inner being.
- Translation sense: compassionate, sympathetic, full of mercy.
- Cross-reference: 1 Peter 3:8 — “be pitiful (eusplanchnoi), be courteous.”
- Insight: Genuine empathy — feeling another’s hurt in your own heart; the opposite of hard-heartedness.

4. “Forgiving one another” — χαριζόμενοι ἑαυτοῖς (charizomenoi heautois, Strong’s G5483)

- Root: charizomai — from charis (“grace, favor”).
- Meaning: to grant grace, to freely show favor, to forgive.
- Tense: Present participle — “continually showing grace to one another.”
- Insight: Forgiveness here is not merely releasing debt; it’s gracing others — giving favor to the undeserving, as God did for us.
- Cross-references:
- Colossians 3:13 — “forgiving (charizomenoi) one another... even as Christ forgave you.”
- Luke 7:42 — the creditor “frankly forgave (charisamenos) them both.”

5. “Even as God in Christ forgave you” — καθὼς καὶ ὁ Θεὸς ἐν Χριστῷ ἐχαρίσατο ὑμῖν

- “Even as” (kathōs kai) — sets the standard and motivation: our forgiveness of others must mirror God’s forgiveness of us.
- “In Christ” (en Christō) — the sphere or means of divine forgiveness; it flows through Christ’s atonement.

- “Forgave” (echarisato, aorist of charizomai) — a completed act; God’s forgiveness is full, final, and gracious.

Flow and Relationship of the Words

- Paul’s order is intentional:
 - Kindness (action) → Tenderheartedness (emotion) → Forgiveness (decision)

This is the reverse of bitterness’s progression in v. 31. Instead of bitterness festering into malice, compassion matures into forgiveness.

Summary Thought:

- God’s forgiveness is the pattern; our relationships are the practice.
- We forgive not because others deserve it, but because God forgave us in Christ.
- To be kind is to mirror the gentleness of Jesus;
- to be tenderhearted is to feel as He feels;
- to forgive is to act as He acted on the cross.
- When the believer’s heart is softened by grace, the Spirit replaces bitterness with benevolence — the very heart of God flowing through the redeemed.

Benjamin is Called Guilty; But United the Brothers Stand (44:10-13)

(Genesis 44:10 NKJV) And he said, "Now also let it be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless."

(Genesis 44:11 NKJV) Then each man speedily let down his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack.

(Genesis 44:12 NKJV) So he searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack.

(Genesis 44:13 NKJV) Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

Tear Clothes

To rip one’s clothing after hearing, such hard news was a representation. The only response is the outward display of the inward heart, and the ripping of clothes is like the ripping of the heart in half. And that’s where they’re at. They’ve been ripped apart for what has just happened. Because they may think that Benjamin actually did steal the cup.

Another Test / Brother could have went Home / Returned to Stand Together

Look at this, another test, and look where their hearts are. At the table Benjamin got 5 times more, yet they ate and were merry, no resentment or animosity towards Benjamin getting more. And now here, the servant said only he who has the cup will become the slave, everyone else can go home, go your way, be free. But what do these brothers do, they all return to Egypt together. They had the opportunity to go home, go free, yet they all return to Egypt together to stand with their brother.

Hearts Changed / Joseph Sold – Stand with Benjamin

The work in their heart has taken root. We see them going from selling Joseph out, to risking life and death for Benjamin. This process that Joseph put them through, brought about growth and maturity to these boys. That they could go from being so selfish to selling a brother, to a place that they would be willing to give up their life for a brother.

So again, here we see the change of heart. It’s one for all, and all for one. They do not divide, and here we see a united nation of Israel that is not divided. It could literally be right here, at this point, where we go....action complete of the Lord’s purpose to forge this nation into one together, because when they go into Egypt, they must stay together because they will not be viewed highly among the Egyptians, and they cannot find themselves doing what Judah did a few chapters ago and heading down to the world to find relief from a hard situation. We’ll read them, uniting together as one. And when they’re united, and their

God is the Lord. It will be impossible to defeat them, and so word for us. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

Psalm 144:15 Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!

Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

Don't Despise Struggles / Refining Process / Babes to Adulthood

Ohh Christian that you would not despise the struggles the Lord allows into your life, that you would embrace them and see them as God's refining process as He strengthens you and develops you into the man or woman of God He desires for you to be. He wants to take you from babes in Christ into Adulthood. To men and woman of God who go past yea I am saved, into a people who have the strength to do battle against the evil one, to overcome the evil one, to a people that are mature mothers and fathers in Christ the you reproduce spiritual offspring's. Too many Christians are content just being saved; they want to live a life of ease, but beloved we live in a fallen world, and it is to escape it's consequences, the daily struggles of life strengthen and prepare us for the inevitable pains that come from living in a fallen world:

(1 John 2:12 NKJV) I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

(1 John 2:13 NKJV) I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.

(1 John 2:14 NKJV) I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

Judah Intercedes for the Family; Now God Can Really Work (44:14-34)

(Genesis 44:14 NKJV) So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground.

(Genesis 44:15 NKJV) And Joseph said to them, "What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"

1 in 40 million

Remember, regarding the divination cup, Joseph did one in 40 million when he sat all eleven in perfect order of age at the dinner table last chapter, not that they knew that statistic of probability, but they surely knew this guy is something special about him, his ability to put us all in perfect order. So that's a setup for this divining cup that they think Joseph has that ability.

Let There be No Confusion

Let there be no confusion that Joseph doesn't need a cup of divination. He's still working these boys to pull out what's in them so that they can hear it themselves of what's in them so they can confess it and be dealt with by the Lord. But Joseph does not need a cup of divination to Know these things. He has a living relationship with the Lord. And I think it should be said that Christians don't need to be playing around with horoscopes and Ouija boards, and those type of things, they're dark, they're cultic, and the devil was behind them, and you can challenge me for legalism, but I can tell you, I've heard too many stories of people playing around with those type of things.. And then the outcome of them, whether it be the Ouija board or the Dungeon and Dragon, and I actually have friends who have lost lives because of those things.

(Genesis 44:16 NKJV) Then Judah said, "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."

Your - Plural

Judah says God has found out the iniquity of "your" servants, plural. He doesn't say yep stupid Benjamin blew it; no he says we have sinned.

To See the Church Stand Together / Place for the Unrepentant

Oh to see this in the church, in the body of Christ today; that we would stand beside the fallen brother, rather than separate ourselves from the fallen brother. Yes the Scriptures say there is a place that an "unrepentant" brother or sister is to be turned over to Satan:

(1 Corinthians 5:5 NKJV) deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

(1 Corinthians 5:6 NKJV) Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

(1 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV) Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

But Repentant Brother / John Baptist – Risk Life & Reputation

But as for the fallen brother, to stand with them, to be there for them, that is family, that is love. I am reminded of the story of John the Baptist when he was beheaded (Mark 6), his brothers came for his body. Doesn't sound like much until you consider that John was considered a criminal, a problem to society, then it changes everything. These men who came risked their life (for they could have found the same fate for being associated with him), they risked their reputation as people would say you are with him.

Mark 6:27–29 (NKJV)

²⁷ Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb.

1 Samuel 31:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹² all the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. ¹³ Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

May We Stand / New Believers – The Big Sin / Most Defining Powerful Moments

May we be a people that will stand beside each other, even when it costs us greatly. This seems so so applicable when it comes to standing besides a new believer, a young believer, or the "big sins", or standing with one of the youth who has blown it. So often the most defining, and powerful moments in our Christian walk is when someone is there after a fall, all alone, broken, and a brother or sister comes besides them, and says I will stand with you, and extends their hand to lift that brother back up to their feet.

(Genesis 44:17 NKJV) But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."

(Genesis 44:18 NKJV) Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh."

(Genesis 44:19 NKJV) "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?'

(Genesis 44:20 NKJV) "And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.'

Judah Gets Real – Now God can Really Work

So here Judah becomes real. He becomes open, he becomes vulnerable, he becomes a key word here, honest, to a point that he said what they all believe that Joseph was dead, and now he comes, and he speaks, and he says, if we come back without Benjamin, our father. He will die of a broken heart, and there's something here for all of us in that, I think sometimes we are in these trials, these storms of, um, correction, where God's trying to bring us to a place to correct us. of a sin, something that we just won't recognize. Of course, there's the storm of direction that he'll put us on, and that will cause through the various events that put us on a path that we probably never would have considered going, and it steers us to a place that we would have never considered to be, but God uses a storm to take us there, as we look at Paul and his shipwreck, but the storms of correction. God will take it, and he will keep letting that storm come, as we watch here. It will blow over and over and over again until we start truly dialing into the detail of what he's trying to correct in our life. And that they went from. Oh, this is what we did. We sold Joseph now here they are all this time later, we killed him. See, a big change from we sold him to, we killed him, and it can be in our life too, where we come with a general confession. We know something's wrong. We're in the storm. We're sensing, God's trying to work something and we say, Lord, forgive me. I'm such a sinner. And you know, that's a good prayer. If it's coming from your heart, but it's a whole different prayer when you come and say, Lord, forgive me for my sin of bitterness towards my brother.

Lord, forgive me for my sin, and you fill in the blank, and as David would say, I've sinned against you and you only, Lord. And we find ourselves being very specific so that God can address that very specific prayer to forgive us, yes, after confession, absolutely. But God does more than just the forgiveness. He then does a work in us through that breaking because he doesn't want us to repeat that sin again. When he brings us to the place of brokenness, then he can speak to us very specifically, how we ended up there, and then how we can avoid ever being there again. And God is doing that with these boys, because again, he's forging the nation.

(Genesis 44:21 NKJV) "Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.'

(Genesis 44:22 NKJV) "And we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'

(Genesis 44:23 NKJV) "But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.'

(Genesis 44:24 NKJV) "So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord.

(Genesis 44:25 NKJV) "And our father said, 'Go back and buy us a little food.'

(Genesis 44:26 NKJV) "But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'

(Genesis 44:27 NKJV) "Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons;

(Genesis 44:28 NKJV) 'and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since.

20 Years of Wondering / Don't Defend Yourself

By the way, after 20 some years of wondering, Joseph for the first time hears what the brothers alibi was when they returned home without him. As I mentioned before Joseph would have plenty of time in prison to wonder what they told Jacob. Maybe he ran off with a prostitute, overdosed in a crack house, (that's your golden boy); whatever it may be Joseph probably had long nights of wondering did they make a lie up that would make dad disappointed in his son. I know I always say you take care of your character, and God will take care of your reputation, but I by no means ever mean that it is easy when someone attacks your character. But remember, if Satan sees that you will try to defend your reputation, then he will see to it that you spend the rest of your doing it, diminishing your time and ability doing the things of the Lord.

Again, a vital piece of information for Joseph in that, all those years, he may have been wondering why his dad didn't try to find him. What was it that these boys told Dad? If Dad knew that he was alive, why didn't Dad... rise up a search party of servants to come look for him? You'll think about those things. When you're all alone, and you feel abandoned, you wonder where people are. You wonder how much you've been forgotten. People have passed on and moved on in life without you. And here he finds out. that Dad thinks that he's dead, and that's why. And I must have reached deep into his heart. But, you know, again, the opportunity that we have here today, there's people come in and out of these doors, Sunday after Sunday. And for some, it's true. They've been forgotten. They've been bypassed. They've been cast out, and they wonder why nobody reaches out to them. They wonder why nobody cares. And they carry that loneliness. For days, years, and into decades. We have an opportunity here. to be a bridge, the VA place... That we'd become a new family to people. We can become a new heart for them that cares for them, that they're on our heart, that we see them. And we don't walk by them. We don't pass by and bypass them. But we come to them. And we get to be that glimpse of Jesus in their life that somebody sees you and somebody cares.

Relief to Joseph

What a relief in some sense to Joseph that they told this story, rather than destroy his character before his father whom he loves.

(Genesis 44:29 NKJV) 'But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.'

(Genesis 44:30 NKJV) "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,
(Genesis 44:31 NKJV) "it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

No Benjamin – Jacobs broken Heart

If Benjamin does not return, dad will die a broken heart.

(Genesis 44:32 NKJV) "For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.'

(Genesis 44:33 NKJV) "Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.

Picture of Intercession / Love for Father – Love for Brother

A beautiful picture of intercession here by Judah, an example for us. We see 2 things in his intercession, a love for his father, and a love for his brother. What a picture for us, teacher what is the greatest command, and Jesus says you shall love the Lord (your Father) with all your heart mind and soul, and you shall love your brother as yourself:

(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment.

(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Want to Move God's Heart – Intercede

Judah does not want to see his father's heart break, nor see his brother Benjamin a slave. What an example for us, that we do not want to see the heart of the Father hurt, broken, nor see our brother a slave to anything, but free. Do you want to move the heart of the Lord, confess your sin, seek to walk in all His ways, and to intercede for your brother.

(Genesis 44:34 NKJV) "For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"

Asking for Mercy

And what is Judah asking for? The answer is mercy. He's asking not to get what he deserves. Joseph, a picture of Jesus, and our greater than Joseph, Jesus, always given us mercy, not what we deserve. We deserve a wrath and a punishment and imprisonment. And death. And yet he gives us. Grace. What we don't deserve, love. Mercy. Freedom, everlasting life. And there's a comparison here, and that when Joseph cried out for mercy, he got none. When he was in that pit, we read, they gave him no mercy. They gave him what he didn't deserve. And here. They're getting mercy. And they... deserved punishment and death for the enslavement of another, and yet Joseph is going to give them mercy. Do you remember when you came to the realization of the mercy that God was giving you through the cross, through the Son, through the price that was paid so that you can be forgiven of your sin, and oh, the beauty of it, and the sweetness of it, to be totally forgiven?. And even beyond that, to be given the change of clothes, to be robed in perfection, a white robe of righteousness. Being given a new name. Becoming a new man, becoming a new woman, the beauty of that mercy. Just soak on that for a minute and how sweet it was. And maybe you need mercy today. God's extending it to you. He'll even say that his mercies are new every morning because great is his faithfulness. He'll give it to you every day. Maybe it's mercy for the forgiveness of sin that separates you from God. For the mercy of a sin that needs just to be put away. so that you can have that sweet relationship with the Lord. Oh, the beauty of his mercy.

Genesis 42:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so. ²¹ Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

Lamentations 3:22–24 (NKJV)

²² Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"

Ephesians 2:4-7 (NKJV)

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Giving Mercy

But for you, to ponder, so often we seek and focus on the mercy that we're asking for. And yet God would take the moment here to speak to every one of us. How about the mercy that's being asked of you? by somebody who has wronged you and harmed you and hurt you even greatly. Maybe even put you in a pit and put you in a prison. And now they're coming. And they're asking you for mercy. Will you give mercy as it's been forgiven and given to you from the Lord above? Or you feel that you have some right. and even justified in withholding mercy. I pray the Lord speaks to your heart about that today.

Matthew 5:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

⁸ He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

God loves to show mercy. But you have to be honest. And if you're not honest about the need, for the mercy, you won't find it.

Our passage culminates with the brothers of Joseph have come to the end of their end, and all they have left is to cry out for mercy. Mercy.... ever want it? When you do want it, it will cry from the depth of your heart to receive it, nothing else in life will seem to matter at that moment. Mercy..... ever receive it? When you do receive it, it will be as a kiss of God, for mercy is the heart of God. Mercy.... ever give it? When you do, it will be the very heart of God to the brokenhearted.

What is mercy? What is not mercy?

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Chp 45 / the Revelation

Joseph's heart is moved, and finally the revelation of who he is before his brother:

(Genesis 45:1 NKJV) Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

(Genesis 45:2 NKJV) And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

(Genesis 45:3 NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.

Outline: Genesis 44

- The Brothers Head Home; Entering into 1 Last Test (44:1-9)
- Benjamin is Called Guilty; But United the Brothers Stand (44:10-13)
- Judah Intercedes for the Family; Now God Can Really Work (44:14-34)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)

- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need