

Sermon Notes 8/8/21

“Family Transformation”

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 44?

1. Be _____ as God’s family.

Genesis 44:13

Philippians 2:1-2

2. Be _____ to the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 44:16

Genesis 42:21

John 16:7-8

3. Be _____ to God’s Son.

Genesis 44:32

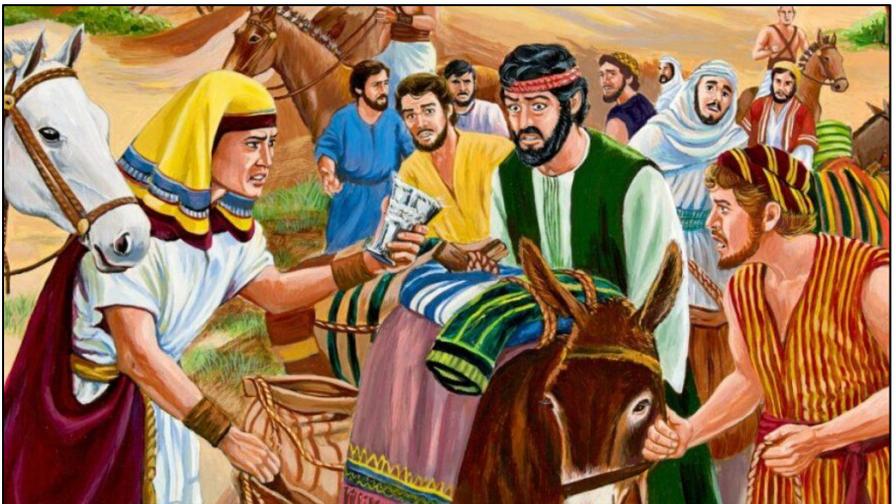
Genesis 44:30-31

Matthew 16:24-25

4. Be _____ to our heavenly Father.

Genesis 44:34

Romans 12:2



Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 44: August 8-15

Genesis 44

Throughout the story of Jacob's family, we have seen his older sons being dishonest, selfish, violent, envious, and immoral. In chapter 37, they sold Joseph into slavery. But through many afflictions and temptations, God was with Joseph shaping him into a leader who would save millions of people from a seven-year famine. And God was also with the older brothers transforming them into a loving family. When the brothers came to Egypt to buy food, Joseph did not reveal himself to them. First, he wanted to know if they had changed. Joseph wanted to know 5 things about his brothers:

1. Have the brothers become "honest men"? (42:11)
2. Do they regret their sins against Joseph? (42:21)
3. Will they rescue their brother from slavery in Egypt? (42:24)
4. How will they respond to unfair favoritism? (43:34)
5. What will they do when the favored son is in trouble? (44:2)

In chapter 44, Joseph discovered the answer to his final question. An amazing transformation had taken place in his brothers and especially in Judah. And through his compassion, humility, and sacrifice, Judah gives us a picture of Jesus.

Read Genesis 44:1-17

1. What did Joseph tell the house steward to put in the youngest brother's sack? (43:1-2)
2. What did Joseph tell his steward to do soon after the brothers left the city? (44:3-5)
3. What past behavior did the brothers mention to support their claim that they were honest men and not thieves? (44:6-8)
4. What penalty did the brothers suggest if any of them were guilty of stealing the silver cup? (44:9)
5. What penalty did the steward predict if any of the brothers were guilty of stealing the silver cup? (44:10)

6. What was the order in which the steward searched through the sacks of the brothers? (44:11-12)

7. How did the brothers respond in verse 13 when the cup was found in Benjamin's sack?

When the brothers got rid of Joseph only Reuben (37:29) and Jacob (37:34) tore their clothes. But here all the brothers tear their clothes, and all of them go back to face the music with Benjamin. Kent Hughes notes,

Something new was taking place. They were changing. What would they do now? Would they surrender Benjamin and save themselves? No; they would not abandon their father's favorite son. They were not the same men who once so blithely sold their favored brother into Egypt. So it was that the brothers tore their clothes and went back weeping to the house from which they had just departed rejoicing.¹

8. What is the first thing the brothers did when they came back to Joseph in verse 14?

9. What did Joseph ask the brothers in verse 15?

10. What did Judah say about their guilt in verse 16? What did he suggest as a penalty for their guilt?

The brothers have already realized that God was punishing them for their sins against Joseph (42:21). Paul Kissling observes,

God has found out their iniquity and is so orchestrating events that the inevitable punishment which follows grievous sin has come upon them. The word translated "iniquity" (רָעָה, 'āwōn) is not merely a synonym for sin but includes sin with its ensuing and inevitable consequences.²

11. How did Joseph respond to Judah's offer in verse 17?

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 511.

² Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 2* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2009), 524.

Read Genesis 44:18-34

12. What did Judah ask when he went up to speak to Joseph in verse 18?
13. What did Judah explain again about the relationship Jacob had with Benjamin? (44:19-20)
14. Why did the older brothers not want to bring Benjamin to Egypt? (44:22)
15. Why was Jacob still thinking that he would never see Joseph again? How did that effect the way he tried to protect Benjamin? (44:27-29)
16. How did Judah describe the relationship Jacob had with Benjamin in verse 30?

Not only was the father's life bound up in the life of his favorite son, but the older brothers were choosing to sacrifice everything to enter that bond with the father and the son. This is a picture of the transformation that takes place in us when we come to the Father through Jesus. Hughes writes,

The brothers had repented of their sin against Joseph. They had forgiven the unfair favoritism of their father. They so loved their father and his favorite son that they would not forsake Benjamin though the cost was immense.³

17. What promise did Judah make to Jacob in verse 32?
18. What did Judah ask of Joseph in verse 33? Why? (44:33-34)
19. How does Judah give us a picture of Jesus in this chapter?
20. What kind of attitude and speech should we have when we are being falsely accused?
21. In what situations has it been especially difficult for you to demonstrate patience, self-control, or humility?
22. How will you show kindness and compassion to someone this week?

³ Hughes, *Genesis*, 514.