

Chapters 44-45

44:1 Then he commanded the steward of his house, "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, **2** and put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain." And he did as Joseph told him.

3 As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. **4** They had gone only a short distance from the city. Now Joseph said to his steward, "Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good? **5** Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this.'"

- Joe wasn't getting payback/revenge on them; he was testing them & bringing them to repentance

6 When he overtook them, he spoke to them these words. **7** They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing! **8** Behold, the money that we found in the mouths of our sacks we brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?

[9] Whichever of your servants is found with it shall die, and we also will be my lord's servants."

[10] He said, "Let it be as you say: he who is found with it shall be my servant, and the rest of you shall be innocent." [11] Then each man quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack.

- Whichever of your servants is found with it shall die – an emotional statement, not a wise one.
- Jacob said something similar to Laban when Laban pursued and caught him
    - – Genesis 31:32 – [32] Anyone with whom you find your gods shall not live. In the presence of our kinsmen point out what I have that is yours, and take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.
    - They might have picked this up from their dad.
    - Proverbs 17:27-28 NASB – [27] One who withholds his words has knowledge,
      And one who has a cool spirit is a person of understanding. [28] Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered **wise**; When he closes his lips, he is *considered* prudent.

[12] And he searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. [13] Then they tore their clothes, and every man loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city.

- This is the worst thing that could happen in their minds.

[14] When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there. They fell before him to the ground. [15] Joseph said to them, "What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that a man like me can indeed practice **divination?"**

- Divination
    - divination(n.) "act of foretelling by supernatural or magical means the future, or discovering what is hidden or obscure," from Old French *divination* (13c.), from

Latin *divinationem* (nominative *divinatio*) "the power of foreseeing, prediction," noun of action from past-participle stem of *divinare*, literally "to be inspired by a god," from *divinus* "of a god," from *divus* "a god," related to *deus* "god, deity"

- – the practice of witchcraft, sorcery to learn information from a deity. [1]
- Joseph never claimed to use divination; his servant said he did.
- "It is possible (though not likely) that Joseph did also, because there was not yet specific revelation from God that such a practice was forbidden."[2] – Guzik
  - Joe didn't need the cup or magic; he had God. This is theater

- "These references to divination seem intended to impress Joseph's brothers with the value of the cup that had disappeared"[3] – Dr. Constable

16 And Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how can we clear ourselves? **God has found out the guilt** of your servants; behold, we are my lord's servants, both we and he also in whose hand the cup has been found."

- **God has found out the guilt –**
  - NET –Judah replied, "What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? How can we clear ourselves? God **has exposed** the sin of your servants! We are now my lord's slaves, we and the one in whose possession the cup was found."
  - NIV –"What can we say to my lord?" Judah replied. "What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God **has uncovered** your servants' guilt. We are now my lord's slaves—we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup."
  - **KJV/ NASB 95/ ESV** – "Found out"
    - Mostly translated as "found" in Genesis
  - If this is what they thought then then didn't yet understand that
    - *"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good."* – Proverbs 15:3

[1] https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Divination
[2] https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-44.cfm?a=44005
[3] Thomas Constable, "Genesis 44," in Dr. Constable's Expository Notes, (1999), StudyLight.org, https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/dcc/genesis-44.html.

- *"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight; everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account."* – Hebrews 4:13

17 But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so! Only the man in whose hand the cup was found shall be my servant. But as for you, go up in peace to your father."

- we are my lord's servants – The older will serve the younger extends even here.
  - His dream they rejected his rulership over them, now, they don't know it but the just submitted to His undisputable rule/ lordship!
    - Every knee **will** bow, every tong will confess – Philippians 2:10 **NASB**

      - **Isaiah 45:23 NASB – 23** I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out from My mouth in righteousness And **will** not turn back, That to Me every knee **will** bow, every tongue will swear *allegiance*.
      -

18 Then Judah went up to him and said, "Oh, my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself.
19 My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father, or a brother?'

20 And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. **His brother is dead**, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.' **21** Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.'
22 We said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'

[23] Then you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see my face again.’

- for you are like Pharaoh himself – Equal to Pharaoh
    - Philippians 2:6 **NASB – 6** who, as He *already* existed in the form of God, did not consider **equality** with God something to be grasped,

[24] “When we went back to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. [25] And when our father said, ‘Go again, buy us a little food,’ [26] we said, ‘We cannot go down. If our youngest brother goes with us, then we will go down. For we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.’

[27] Then your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons. [28] One left me, and I said, “**Surely he has been torn to pieces**,” and I have never seen him since. [29] If you take this one also from me, and harm happens to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in evil to Sheol.’

- This gives Joseph insight into what they told their father back when he was sold.

[30] “Now therefore, as soon as I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the boy's life, [31] as soon as he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol. [32] For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.’

[33] Now therefore, **please let your servant remain instead** of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. [34] For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father."

- **Judah** v18-33
  - – Was the one who proposed that the brothers sell Joseph back in – Gen 37:26-27
  - Unknowingly slept with his daughter-in-law Gen 38
  - Now he is willing to sacrifice himself for his brother.
    - He is willing to take Ben's place
      - **Jesus took our place –** Romans 5:8
    - This shows Joseph's **true repentance/change.**

- he will die – He almost died of grief about Joseph 22 years before.
  - They do not want to experience the grief and death of their father a second time.

Joseph Provides for His Brothers and Family

45:1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. [2] And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

- What is going on in the brothers' minds? Why is this guy crying? We should be

[3] And Joseph said to his brothers, **"I am Joseph!** Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

- "Make everyone go out from me"… **"I am Joseph"**
    - He has been using an interpreter this whole time, now he speaks in Hebrew to them
        - Plays on Word in Albania and the using their language story.
        - The shock of hearing Hebrew, then the processing of the words must have caused great fear.
        - "Wait, what…? How can this…? Oh my God! Uh oh!
- **I am Joseph** – The realization that **the one they sinned against** is their master is heavy
    - Godly sorrow leads to repentance
        - 2 Corinthians 7:10 – [10] For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.
- **1st & 2nd coming of Jesus** and Joseph
    - **1st**
        - John 1:11 – [11] He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
        - John 5:43 – [43] I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.
        - Genesis 37 – Joe went to his brothers about the dreams twice, then went to see them, and they rejected him.
    - **2nd**
        - Revelation 1:7 – Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

[4] So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. [5] And now do not be distressed or angry

with yourselves because you sold me here, for **God sent me before you to preserve life.** [6] For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. [7] And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

- **God sent me before you to preserve life – God's hand**
    - In our lives? If we could only see His hand!
    - Walk by Faith!
    - Joe recognizes God's sovereignty and ability to utilize what we would call evil, or disaster

[8] **So it was not you who sent me here, but God.** He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

- It wasn't the only way, however, it was **the best way**!
    - God could have just installed Joe from the jump (not best)
    - What he learned along the way shaped him into the man God wanted and the world needed (The best, most excellent outcome!)

[9] Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. [10] You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

[11] There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

- They were still in danger, they still needed to heed the word of the Man-of-God
    - They had to come to him to be saved
    - They had to follow his instructions
    - It's not enough to just have knowledge of Jesus
        - What if they wanted to just stay in Canaan and not obey? They would have died from the famine.
- And now do not be distressed or angry – peace, reassurance

12 And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. **13** You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here."

- They were so shook that they needed reassurance

14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that **his brothers talked with him**.

- Zechariah 12:10 – Israel will see and recognize Christ Jesus
    - **10** "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

- The veil has been over their eyes
    - 2 Corinthians 3:14 – But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same **veil** remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.
- **his brothers talked with him** –
    - Remember when he was 17, they wouldn't even speak kindly to him,

- Genesis 37:4 – **4** But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and **could not speak** peacefully to him.
- **Now,** because of reconciliation, they speak.
    - Paul says – 2 Corinthians 5:20 – **20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God**.

16 When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. **17** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan,

18 and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' **19** And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. **20** Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

21 The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. **22** To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes. **23** To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey.

24 Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way."**25** So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. **26** And

they told him, “Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt.” And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them.

27 But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. **28** And Israel said, “It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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