

THE FINAL EXAM

Genesis 44

INTRODUCTION

In Genesis 43, Joseph's brothers returned a second time to purchase grain in Egypt. Joseph tested them several ways to see if their hearts have changed. In awe and fear of "the man", Joseph has not revealed himself to them yet. Genesis 44 continues their testing. Joseph surely desires a reconciliation and true family reunion, but knows things cannot be like they were so many years ago. His brothers' character and integrity is on trial. Is there true brokenness and humility? We will see, as Joseph gives **The Final Exam**.

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 44. Because of their relationship with Joseph in the past, tests have been given to see if his brothers are still the same. Joseph is not being cruel, but is looking for hearts of contrition and humility over their past treatment. As Joseph gives **The Final Exam**, will their response lead to restored relationships? God can work with and use broken things! *Psalm 34:18, Isaiah 57:15*

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

- I. Genesis 44:1-6. Apprehended. Placing all their money back in full sacks, Joseph sets up the final test. Will money be an issue to them, to run away or maybe try to buy their way out of the upcoming situation? *1 Timothy 6:10*. Also, Joseph had his personal cup in put in Benjamin's sack. Jesus knows how to interrupt our lives and get our attention.
- II. Genesis 44:7-12. Searched. Making outrageous oaths, the brothers are all adamant about their innocence. The unnamed servant – like the Holy Spirit – has apprehended them and now will search each person. Sometimes we don't know what is hidden in our hearts until the Holy Spirit searches deep down. *Psalm 44:20-21, Proverbs 20:27, Jeremiah 17:9-10*. In finding the cup in Benjamin's sack, he became a threat to them all.
- III. Genesis 44:13-16. God has found us. Back in front of Joseph, fearful and humbled, Judah recognizes that they are undone. ***"God has found out the iniquity of your servants..."*** What iniquity? Sin hidden 22 years is now exposed. There can be no pretending any more. No place to run. No place to hide. The Holy Spirit wants us to face our sin.
- IV. Genesis 44:17. The final exam. Judah speaks. Years ago, Judah hatched the plan to sell Joseph as a slave. Now he is faced with a decision - will you stay, or will you go? Do you care about Benjamin? We must decide how to respond. *Selah*
- V. Genesis 44:18-34. Judah steps up. Barnhouse commented, "Judah offered the most moving address in the Word of God. Here was the eloquence of true love." Judah is a different man. He exhibits brokenness over his sin and care for his family. He offers his life in exchange for Benjamin's and Jacob's too. Like Moses (*Exodus 32:32*) and Paul (*Romans 9:1-5*), he is willing to be a slave that others may be set free. Judah is a great example of the changed life. He did what was right thing. When confronted with sin, admit it, own it and take responsibility, repent and receive forgiveness – be reconciled to God.

Taking full responsibility for sinful actions – that's when forgiveness comes and reconciliation can take place. A classic contrast in Scripture is Saul and David. When Samuel exposed Saul's sin, he made excuses. But when Nathan exposed David's sin (although he tried to hide it for a long time), he truly repented and was restored. In closing our study in Genesis 44, let's turn to *Psalm 51*.

CONSIDER Judah showed brokenness in Genesis 44. God puts a premium on it. *Psalm 51*. Notice David's...
o Sense of filth over sin. Wash, cleanse, purge, wash, clean. We have a sin nature. *Psalm 51:1-10, Romans 3:23*
o Prayer of repentance. Create, renew, restore, uphold. Be broken over sin. *Psalm 51:10-12, Luke 18:13-14*
o Witness and fruitfulness. Teach, sing, show forth praise. The joy of salvation. *Psalm 51:13-17, Galatians 5:22-23*

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise." *Psalm 51:17*

PRAY

- o again, that the Holy Spirit would expose the hidden things of our heart and that we would face them with repentance.
- o that the Lord would work a broken and contrite heart in each one of us.
- o for the upcoming Prophecy Conference – weather, speakers, servants, for a moving of the Holy Spirit.
- o a new passion for the Lord for each and every heart this new year.
- o That our missionaries would be assured of their calling where the Lord has them serving.