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**GENESIS 44-45**

**CHAPTER 44**

*And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth. {2} And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. {3} As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses. {4} And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good? {5} Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth?*



**INSIGHT:**

The Egyptians would pour water into a clean goblet - drop pieces of gold and silver or precious stones into the water and interpret the appearances.

Joseph believes in the One, True and Living God - so he wouldn't do that - but he still wants his brothers to believe that he is an Egyptian.

*{6} And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words. {7} And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing: {8} Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold? {9} With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen. {10} And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words: he with whom it is found shall be my servant; and ye shall be blameless. {11} Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack. {12} And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack. {13} Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city.*

The guys could have split - They could have gone back to Jacob without Benjamin. But we are seeing that they have begun to change.

*{14} And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.*

Again - isn't this the issue that stirred up so much envy and hatred in these men's hearts to begin with?

By the Way - It is the Lord who brought about the fulfillment of Joseph's dream to pass. Joseph NEVER tried to work it out.

*{15} And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine? {16} And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants:*

These guys are SO GUILTY for all that they did to Joseph

*behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found. {17} And he said, God forbid that I should do so: but the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father. {18} Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh. {19} My lord asked his servants, saying, Have ye a father, or a brother? {20} And we said unto my lord, We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead,*

He is whispering this into JOSEPH'S ear!

*and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loveth him. {21} And thou saidst unto thy servants, Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him. {22} And we said unto my lord, The lad cannot leave his father: for if he should leave his father, his father would die. {23} And thou saidst unto thy servants, Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall see my face no more. {24} And it came to pass when we came up unto thy servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. {25} And our father said, Go again, and buy us a little food. {26} And we said, We cannot go down: if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down: for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother be with us. {27} And thy servant my father said unto us, Ye know that my wife bare me two sons: {28} And the one went out from me, and I said, Surely he is torn in pieces;*

#### **NOTE WELL:**

This is the FIRST time that Joseph is hearing the alibi that his brothers gave to Jacob some 20 years earlier.

*and I saw him not since: {29} And if ye take this also from me, and mischief befall him, ye shall bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. {30} Now therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad be not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life; {31} It shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die:*

In other words - the ONLY thing that kept this old man going was his youngest son.

*and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave. {32} For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever. {33} Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren. {34} For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father.*

Joseph had been thinking - HOW could a brother sell a brother into slavery?

Judah was the one who didn't care back in chapter 37.

BUT NOW - Judah is the who says

NO - TAKE ME - let ME be the one in the pit - the one sold into slavery - so that Benjamin can be free and my father doesn't die!

### CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

We now see something of the heart of God reflected in this once selfish, jealous man -

**For this is the heart of the Father** in the sending of His Son Jesus - *For God so loved the world that He gave* - (not "the world so loved God) - *Herein is love - not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the wrath appeasing sacrifice for OUR sins.*

**This the heart of Jesus** who GAVE HIMSELF as a ransom for OUR sins - Who tasted death for US - washed us from OUR sins with HIS blood - that we might live and be restored to our heavenly Father!

Jesus - the GREAT SUBSTITUTE!

This is what Joseph has been LONGING to hear.

### CHAPTER 45

*Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.*

### KEY OBSERVATION:

Joseph NOW reveals himself to his brethren

In this man we have a picture of how Jesus made himself known to us.

We have a picture of the dealings of the Savior with Sinners.

*{2} And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. {3} And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. {4} And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.*

### KEY INSIGHT:

Benjamin is now hearing for the FIRST time what really happened to his brother.

Joseph is NOT intent upon CONDEMNING - but in SAVING!

Jesus did NOT come to condemn but to save (John 3)

### NOTE WELL:

He does NOT want religion - but NEARNESS to himself.

*And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. {5} Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.*

### YE SOLD ME - GOD SENT ME

Selling Joseph was a crime

Yet a divine plan was behind it -

[Eph. 1:11](#) He worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

They committed the evil...God NEVER was a partaker in it -

[John 19:11](#) Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above

[Acts 2:23](#) Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

**THE REASON** that this story is recorded in such detail (25% of Genesis is the account of this man's life) is because his life so closely parallels God's Only begotten son.

- Jesus - would be rejected by His own brethren - the nation of Israel.
- Jesus would be sold out for 30 pieces of silver.
- Jesus would be crucified and buried - thrown into the pit / dungeon as it were.
- Jesus would be given a gentile bride.

And one day yet in the future Jesus is still to be revealed to His Jewish brethren -

[Zech 12:10](#) - they will look upon Me whom they have pierced and mourn as one mourns for an only son.

AND THE HEART OF GOD TOWARDS US THIS EVENING IS - **BE NOT GRIEVED NOR ANGRY WITH YOURSELVES** -

You might have done something in one way - but God in his providence and sovereignty **OVERIDES** - and He can turn these things around.

**DON'T** stand around thinking - *I don't deserve to be saved - restored - forgiven*

YOU DON'T!  
I DON'T!

**Everything** that we **NEED** in regards to forgiveness and life and peace has been accomplished at **HEAVEN'S EXPENSE**.

We **CAN'T** earn or merit any of it.

God only desires that you take it by faith.

*{6} For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. {7} And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. {8} So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt*

**HOW AMAZING** that he could lift his eyes **ABOVE** his circumstance - **Look beyond** those who did him such harm - **to see** the hand of God in all of it.

He doesn't say they were **GOOD** or that it's **OK** to do what they did.

He just says that God was **BIGGER** than all of their wrongdoing.

**ARE we like that?**

*9} Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph,*

I find it interesting that after Joseph REVEALS Himself to them the NEXT thing that he does is COMMAND THEM to GO and SHARE this good news with Jacob -

When Jesus reveals Himself to us - His love - His mercy - He wants us to

“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD...”

“YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES...”

**NOTE WELL:**

Where there is NO desire to GO and TELL there is probably:

1. LITTLE or NO understanding of who Jesus is...
2. LITTLE or NO experience of His mercy

*God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not: {10} And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me,*

Do we want the one's who stabbed us in the back to be NEAR to us?

**CRUCIAL:**

Jesus wants the ones who drove the nails through His hands and feet to be NEAR to Him FOREVER

*thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast: {11} And there will I nourish thee;*

**AGAIN - HE doesn't just forgive them** - He wants them CLOSE and he wants to NOURISH them!! THAT is JESUS!!

*for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty. {12} And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you. {13} And ye shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that ye have seen; and ye shall haste and bring down my father hither. {14} And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. {15} Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.*

**MAYBE** for the first times in their lives. They detested him. They may have NEVER looked into his eyes and talked to him before this. LIKE SO MANY OF US before coming to Jesus.

*{16} And the fame thereof was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, Joseph's brethren are come: and it pleased Pharaoh well, and his servants. {17} And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Say unto thy brethren, This do ye; lade your beasts, and go, get you unto the land of Canaan; {18} And take your father and your households, and come unto me: and I will give you the good of the land of Egypt, and ye shall eat the fat of the land. {19} Now thou art commanded, this do ye; take you wagons out of the land of Egypt for your little ones, and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. {20} Also regard not your stuff; for the good of all the land of Egypt is yours. {21} And the children of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way. {22} To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver, and five changes of raiment. {23} And to his father he sent after this manner; ten asses laden with the good things of Egypt, and ten she asses laden with corn and bread and meat for his father by the way. {24} So he sent his brethren away, and they departed: and he said unto them, See that ye fall not out by the way. {25} And they went up out of Egypt, and came into the land of Canaan unto Jacob their father, {26} And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart fainted, for he believed them not. {27} And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons*

*which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived: {28} And Israel said, It is enough; Joseph my son is yet alive: I will go and see him before I die.*

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