

How God Transforms Us
Genesis 44
Joseph: Living in the Powder Keg of Pressure, part 8

- In Genesis 44, we must remember that God is at work beyond the present and is reaching into eternity. God is preparing a family to bring forth the Messiah into this lost and broken world.
- He is testing the sons of Jacob to determine which son will be the son to bring forth the Messiah. Which son? They all had issues!
- **The story, Genesis 44:1-17**
- The brothers of Joseph were at the crossroad of life with an opportunity to show they have changed and repented:
 - (1.) “Everything falls short of thorough repentance which does not prevent us from committing the sin anew.”
 - (2.) “We cannot judge what men are by what they have been formerly, nor what they will do by what they have done: age and experience may make men wiser and better. Those that had sold Joseph would not now abandon Benjamin. The worst may mend in time.” Matthew Henry
- In the midst of this great and final test, Judah stands strong and shows how God is transforming his life:

1. Judah’s Conviction (of sin), v.1-14

- A. They rent their clothes, v.13: A total loss of hope!
- B. They fall before Joseph, v.14: Broken and humbled!

2. Judah’s Confession, v.15-17

- A. Judah was no longer stubborn and self-willed: “God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants.”
- B. Judah confesses, “You found your cup in Benjamin’s sack, but God has found out our iniquity.”
- C. Joseph’s words strike a chord that vibrate in their conscience and remind them how they treated Joseph and rewarded him evil though he had done them no wrong. (v.4,5)

Proverbs 5:21; For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondered all his goings.

D. Those who had sold Joseph as a slave now say to him, we will be your slave!
Genesis 44:16b; Behold, we are my lord's servants.

E. At this crossroad of life, Judah steps up.

3. Judah's Compassion, v.18-34

A. Judah speaks with real respect for Joseph (although the King of kings will come forth from him), v.18-24

B. Judah speaks with real self-sacrificial love for his father, v.25-31.

C. Judah in deep love is willing to bear Benjamin's blame, take his place, and lay down his life for his brother, v.32-34.

John 15:10, Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

- Judah is a changed man. This is not the same man who lived a lie to his father about Joseph. He was under **deep conviction**. He made an **honest confession**. He shows **real compassion**.

4. Jesus the Ultimate Substitute!

A. Jesus is our perfect Judah: Christ bore our blame, took our place and laid down His life for the sins of the whole world!

B. At the heart of the Gospel is the substitutionary death of Christ, that "Christ died for us."

2 Cor. 5:21; For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

1 Peter 3:18; For Christ also hath once suffered for sins.