

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"The Loyalty Test"
Genesis 44:1-34
Study-74

Joseph gives a Loyalty Test to his brothers. Forcing his brothers to choose between their own personal welfare and that of Benjamin and their father, Israel.

Genesis 42:1-44:34 The Mystery Phaise:

Thought Of Our Passage: "Unity Calls For Self-Sacrificing Love For One Another, And We Will Be Called Upon To Demonstrate It."

- 1. Verses 1-3 Conspiracy**
- 2. Verses 4-15 Confrontation**
- 3. Verses 16-34 Confession**

1. Verses 1-3 Conspiracy:

Genesis 44:1 Then he commanded his house steward,

Context: Joseph's brothers have all returned to Egypt to purchase food for the second time.

Joseph tested the brothers for jealousy when Joseph gave a food portion **five times** more to Benjamin, and his brothers all pass the test!

as they can carry, - This is to test their greed. **Money** – guilt and a reminder from the steward's statement that God was working.

Genesis 44:2 silver cup - was a cup that the Egyptians used to determine their god's will. They would pour wine or water into it (pieces of gold and gems), and based on the bubbles and the way the fluid rippled in the cup, it would reveal the god's will.

Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:9-12 forbidden.

The brothers had conspired out of hate towards Joseph, but Joseph out of love. Genesis 44 "Loyalty Test." This test was to reveal if the brothers had really changed. Have they owned their wrong?

Genesis 44:3 the men were sent away, they with their donkeys.
These brothers felt pretty good about themselves.

2. Verses 4-15 Confrontation:

Genesis 44:4-5

How Joseph was good to them, he came to minister to them, but they threw him in a pit.

Romans 12:17-21

Genesis 44:6-7

What a terrible thing to accuse us of not having integrity.

Genesis 44:8 "Behold, the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks - Speaking of their works.

Genesis 44:9 "With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, - Jacob had said the same thing when his wife Rachel had stolen an idol from Laban. **Genesis 31:32**

Their confidence was in themselves. ("In God We Trust") Psalm 20:7-8

Peter said to Jesus: **"Even though all may fall away, yet I will not."**

Genesis 44:10 This counteroffer was much kinder than what the brothers had vowed (Slave).

Genesis 44:11 hurried, each man - so eager and self-confident.

Genesis 44:12 He searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest, (40 million to 1 odds!)

and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

The Loyalty Test - Had the brothers really changed?

Genesis 44:13 Then they tore their clothes, (*sign of mourning and distress*)

they returned to the city. All the brothers returned to support Benjamin.

Genesis 44:14 they fell to the ground before him. Fulfilled prophecy
Genesis 37:7,9

Genesis 44:15 Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed practice divination?" I could find these things out!

3. Verses 16-34 Confession:

Genesis 44:16 So Judah said, the spokesman shines, as he intercedes for Benjamin. Judah has become the spokesman **Genesis 43:3**

"What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? Romans 3:19

The Key Thought: God has found out the iniquity of your servants; 8X found out in our passage.

Brothers are finally coming to the realization of their sin, it is being exposed. Numbers 32:23 and be sure your sin will find you out.

NLT Isaiah 64:6

Genesis 44:17 But he said, "Far be it from me to do this. (Only Benjamin will be a slave and remain)

Verses - 18-34 Judah Intercedes For Benjamin: Genesis 44:18
Joseph is called **7X my lord,**

It was because of this prayer we can see why the family of Judah was chosen for the bloodline of Jesus Christ! (Our Intercessor)

Judah's Basis For Intercession Is Mercy: We must do the same thing;

Genesis 44:19-22 Slavery of Benjamin will kill my father. I need to think of my father. **Genesis 42:38**

Moses had this love for Israel – Exodus 32:31-32 Paul had this love for Israel – Romans 9:2-3

Genesis 44:23-31

The Father's Love Is What Calvary Is All About: John 3:16

Genesis 44:32-33 John 10:11-18; 1 John 3:16

A picture of the cross, the Substitutionary death of Jesus Christ. That the innocent was willing to take the guilty's place. **John 15:12-13**

Judah – "Praise"

Genesis 44:34 fear that I see the evil that would overtake my father?" Genesis 42:36-38

2 Corinthians 5:17

1 Corinthians 10:13

Temptations Happen To Everyone. We Should Never Think That God Is Picking On Us! No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man;

Others Have Resisted Temptation And So Can We: and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able,

God Will Always Show Us A Way Out: but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also,

Escape – *was used of sailors that would lighten their ship in the midst of a storm by throwing overboard weighty cargo.*

that you may be able to endure it. God wants us to learn and grow.

Application:

- 1.** Joseph Performed A Loyalty Test Through Planting His Cup In His Brother's Bag So That The Brothers Would Come To The Realization That **Genesis 44:16 God has found out the iniquity of your servants;** The Brothers Would Go From Conviction To Finally Owning Their Own Sin.
- 2.** Every One Of Us Are Like Benjamin In That We Have All Sinned, The Cup Has Been Found In Our Sack. We Need To Acknowledge Our Sin: **Romans 3:23-24**
- 3.** God Brought About A Transformation Of Judah And His Brothers To That Of Love And Unity. Their Past Focus Was Upon Themselves And What Benefitted Them. Now Their Concern Was Benjamin And Their Father: