

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

The Transformation of the Ten – Genesis 43-44

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

“By the time we arrive at Genesis 45:28, Joseph will have revealed himself to his brothers, and Jacob will know that his long-lost son is alive. And in all the details of this saga, we see the hand of God weaving the truth of Romans 8:28 throughout every step.” (Alistair Begg, *The Hand of God*)

The events that we see unfolding have **four primary purposes**:

1. To test the _____ of Joseph’s 10 older brothers
2. To _____ the family, and thus future _____, from the severe famine that had impacted the world
3. To show God’s relentless commitment to his own _____ with Abraham
4. To display the loving _____ of God over all human affairs

And probably two *secondary* purposes:

1. To find out about his _____
2. To know his _____

Themes in the Fateful First Meeting

God’s _____ (His sovereignty for His people) ...

Joseph’s _____ and _____ ...

The brothers’ _____ ...

Jacob’s _____ ...

Rueben’s _____ ...

The Return to Egypt

43 Now the famine was severe in the land. ² And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go again, buy us a little food.”

³ But Judah said to him, “The man solemnly warned us, saying, ‘You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.’ ⁴ If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. ⁵ But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, ‘You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.’ ”

⁶ Israel said, “Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?”

⁷ They replied, “The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, ‘Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?’ What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, ‘Bring your brother down?’”

⁸ And Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. ⁹ I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. ¹⁰ If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice.”

¹¹ Then their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man, a little balm and a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds. ¹² Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was an oversight. ¹³ Take also your brother, and arise, go again to the man. ¹⁴ May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.”

Genesis 43:1-14

Jacob had previously insisted that Benjamin would not part of this apparent debacle with the other brothers: *"My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol."* (42:38)

But now, he has no choice but to allow to go under the promised care of both Rueben and Judah.

Jacob resigned himself to the possibility of deep _____: *"... if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."*)

The remainder of chapter 43 describes their _____ from Joseph:

- The brothers were (rightfully) _____, but Joseph's steward promised them _____ ...
- Joseph told them that "_____" had blessed them with the money ...
- The sight of _____ was his final undoing. Upon seeing his younger brother, he could contain his emotions no longer.

The great theme of chapter 43 is _____:

_____ prayed for it before they returned to Egypt: *"May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin"* (v. 14),

and _____ displayed it in his response to his brothers: *"Joseph hurried out, for his compassion ("mercy" – same Hebrew word) grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep"* (v. 30)

The Last Test: Ch. 44

44 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.' "

Genesis 44:1-5

The brothers were _____ ...

Certain of their _____, they pledged _____ to whomever had the cup. To their incredible dismay and despair, the guilty party seemed to be _____.

Note their immediate reaction:

Did Joseph practice _____?

Judah's _____ proclamation before Joseph (v. 16):

Joseph's _____ offer:

Judah's _____ and offer to be a _____:

Have the brothers changed?

How God changes us:

Next week: Genesis 45 – The Mercy of Joseph