

**Benjamin Condemned, Judah Intercedes,  
Joseph Reveals Himself**

Gn 44 <sup>1</sup> And [Joseph] commanded the steward of his house, saying, “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. <sup>2</sup> Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money.” So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. <sup>3</sup> As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys. <sup>4</sup> When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, “Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good?’ <sup>5</sup> Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.’ ”

<sup>6</sup> So he overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words. <sup>7</sup> And they said to him, “Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing. <sup>8</sup> Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord’s house? <sup>9</sup> With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord’s slaves.” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “Now also let it be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless.” <sup>11</sup> Then each man speedily let down his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack. <sup>12</sup> So he searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack. <sup>13</sup> Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

<sup>14</sup> So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph’s house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground. <sup>15</sup> And Joseph said to them, “What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?” <sup>16</sup> Then Judah said, “What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord’s slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found.” <sup>17</sup> But he said, “Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father.”

<sup>18</sup> Then Judah came near to him and said: “O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord’s hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh.

<sup>19</sup> My lord asked his servants, saying, ‘Have you a father or a brother?’ <sup>20</sup> And we said to my lord, ‘We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother’s children, and his father loves him.’ <sup>21</sup> Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.’ <sup>22</sup> And we said to my lord, ‘The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.’ <sup>23</sup> But you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.’ <sup>24</sup> So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord. <sup>25</sup> And our father said, ‘Go back and buy us a little food.’ <sup>26</sup> But we said, ‘We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’ <sup>27</sup> Then your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons; <sup>28</sup> and the one went out from me, and I said, “Surely he is torn to pieces”; and I have not seen him since. <sup>29</sup> But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.’

<sup>30</sup> Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad’s life, <sup>31</sup> it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave. <sup>32</sup> For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.’ <sup>33</sup> Now therefore,

please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. <sup>34</sup> For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?”

<sup>45</sup> <sup>1</sup> Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Make everyone go out from me!” So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph; does my father still live?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come near to me.” So they came near. Then he said: “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.”

► We have seen how God through Joseph provided one of the most vivid pictures of \_\_\_\_\_ in the entire OT. One of the ways he pictures Christ is in the way he pursues his straying \_\_\_\_\_ to bring them back to God.

► Joseph has been \_\_\_\_\_ his brothers to see if they will envy and hate Benjamin the same way they did him.

► Joseph intensifies the test by arranging for Benjamin to be caught with Joseph’s \_\_\_\_\_. So sure are the brothers of their innocence that they pronounce judgment ahead of time – death to anyone with the \_\_\_\_\_ plus slavery for the rest – but the steward insists only the \_\_\_\_\_ one will be punished. When the cup is found, it provides the perfect opportunity for the brothers to \_\_\_\_\_ Benjamin as they did Joseph.

► But they don’t. They return to Joseph’s house with Benjamin under \_\_\_\_\_ leadership (14). The brothers fall before Joseph, thus fulfilling the dreams God gave to Joseph (37.5-10; cf. 42.6; 43.26, 28). Judah speaks for

the brothers, but he makes no protest or excuse, but pleads guilty for them all, for he knows this is not really about an Egyptian ruler and his silver cup, but about what they did to \_\_\_\_\_ 22 years before and their guilt before God (16). When Joseph says only the one with the \_\_\_\_\_ will be his slave, it provides another temptation for them to abandon Benjamin, but Judah won't do it. He asks to approach and to speak privately, for he does not want his brothers to hear and \_\_\_\_\_. He recounts the whole situation – how Jacob's \_\_\_\_\_ is bound up with Benjamin, and how Judah has pledged himself for the lad (19-32). Judah begs Joseph to accept him as \_\_\_\_\_ in return for Benjamin's freedom and Jacob's life. "\_\_\_\_ life for theirs" is the essence of Judah's plea, and it is the essence of Christ's sacrifice for us.

Mt 3 <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came ... to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

Jn 10 <sup>11</sup> "The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep"

► This is not the \_\_\_\_\_ Judah that we and Joseph knew before. When someone is united to Christ, they begin, however slowly, to take on his \_\_\_\_\_. This is exactly what Joseph has been \_\_\_\_\_ for. Only now does he \_\_\_\_\_ himself to his brothers.

Phil 2 <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

► The brothers are \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph will give them what they deserve, but he doesn't, for he is a picture of Christ. Joseph shows a heart of (1) \_\_\_\_\_ that understands God's sovereign ways; (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that embraces his Father's perfect will; and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ that is willing to suffer much for his Father's glory and his brothers' good. Joseph explains that God brings about His bright designs and sovereign will even in and through \_\_\_\_\_ making their own sinful decisions for their own sinful reasons. Joseph calls his brothers away from

the \_\_\_\_\_ kind, and toward the \_\_\_\_\_ kind of sorrow.

"Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill, He treasures up His bright designs and works His sovereign will." William Cowper

Acts 2 <sup>22</sup> "Jesus of Nazareth ... <sup>23</sup> ... being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; <sup>24</sup> whom God raised up ... <sup>36</sup> Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ ... <sup>38</sup> ... Repent, and ... be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ... <sup>39</sup> For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off"

2Cor 7 <sup>10</sup> [T]he sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

► The two kinds of sorrow are illustrated by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt 26.69 – 27.5). Both were members of God's covenant \_\_\_\_\_, disciples of \_\_\_\_\_, and members of the \_\_\_\_\_. Both \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and felt \_\_\_\_\_ for what they had done. In the end, the difference between them was not in how they \_\_\_\_\_, but in what they \_\_\_\_\_: Peter \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ; Judas did \_\_\_\_\_. Genuine faith, however feebly, however filled with shame, \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ. Unbelief, for whatever reason – and there are a million of them – does \_\_\_\_\_ come to Christ.