

I. Introduction and review: A dysfunctional family is reconciled.

II. Joseph's brothers demonstrate true repentance. 44:1-34

A. Joseph makes his brothers face the ultimate test. v. 1-13

1. After the banquet, he sends them home with their grain (and his silver). v. 1, 3
2. Joseph plants his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. v. 2
3. Joseph's servant overtakes Joseph's brothers and accuses them of theft. v. 4-6
4. The brothers offer to serve Joseph as a slave if they are found guilty. v. 7-10
5. The silver cup is found in Benjamin's sack and he is arrested. v. 11-13 31
6. Did all of the brothers have to return to the city? v. 13

B. Again Joseph uses radical methods.

1. He claims to practice divination. 40:8 41:16 Lv. 19:26 Dt. 18:10 Ez. 21:21 Nu. 23:23
2. He deceitfully plants incriminating evidence.

C. Joseph confronts his brothers. v. 14-17

1. Again the brothers bow before Joseph. v. 14 37:5-11,19-20
2. Judah again is the spokesman for his brethren. v. 14,16
3. What guilt does Judah admit? v. 16 42:21
4. All of the brothers offer to serve as Joseph's slaves. v. 16
5. Joseph offers to release all the brothers except for Benjamin. v. 17
6. This is their chance to get rid of their father's favorite.

D. Judah intercedes for Benjamin. v. 18-34 43:9 49:8

1. Judah keeps his promise to his father Jacob. 43:9
2. He is more concerned about others (Jacob and Benjamin) than himself. v. 18-31
3. He speaks not just for himself, but also for his brothers.
4. He offers to be punished in Benjamin's place. v. 32-34

E. Joseph is reconciled to his brothers. 45:1f Acts 7:13.

1. Joseph is overwhelmed with emotion. 45:1-2
2. Joseph unveils his true identity. 45:3

III. How does this passage apply to us?

A. God can and does change hearts. I Cor. 6:9-11 II Cor. 5:17 I Tim. 1:13-17 Eph. 2:1f

1. Judah was an adulterer, a hypocrite, and a liar who is transformed from one who sells his brother as a slave to one who is willing to be the slave for his brother.
2. God continues to change lives.

B. Do you need to repent? Rom. 2:4 *The kindness of God leads you to repentance.*

1. Repentance is part of the gospel. It is impossible to be a true Christian without repentance. Acts 2:36-38 17:30 20:21 26:20 Luke 24:46-47 15:18 Mt. 3:2 4
2. Repentance is more than a feeling. It is possible to feel guilty without being truly repentant. 42:21-22 II Cor. 7:10b
3. Repentance is a change of heart which is demonstrated by a change of action. Jer. 25:5 II Co. 7:10a,11 Ps. 51:1f Mt. 3:8
4. Repent and God will forgive you. I John 1:8-10 Isa. 1:18 Ps. 103:8-14 Pr. 28:18
5. Quickly seek forgiveness from those you have wronged. Mt. 5:23-24 Pr. 3:27-28
6. The Lord still receives and embraces repentant prodigals. 45:15 Luke 15:20

- C. Love one another as Judah loved his brothers and Christ loved you. Jo. 15:13 13:34
I Jo. 3:16 4:8f
1. Godly love does not depend upon the worthiness of the recipient. Ro. 5:6f Mt. 5:44
 2. Love makes sacrifices.
 3. We, the new Israel, need to be united through expressions of forgiveness and love.
 4. There is a place for deep emotional expression by believers. 45:2,16 Ro. 16:16

IV. How does this passage point to Christ?

- A. King Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. 49:9 Rev. 5:5-6 Acts 5:31
- B. Jesus offered himself as a substitute to bear the penalty owed by his brethren.
 II Cor. 5:21 I Pet. 3:18 John 10:11-18
1. Judah was the first person in Scripture who willingly offers his life for another.
 - a. Moses and Paul offer intercede for their brethren. Ex. 32:9-14,31f Rom. 1:9f
 2. Jesus, for His Father's sake, became a servant for us. Isa. 52:13-53:12 Phil. 2:5f
 3. Jesus takes our guilt as His own. II Cor. 5:21 I Pe. 3:18 John 10:11-18 Isa. 53:4-6
 Gen. 4:25 22:13 Ex. 29:30 Num. 3:12
 4. Jesus intercedes for His people. Ro. 8:34 Heb. 7:25
 5. He delivers His people from the penalty and the bondage of sin. Ro. 6:6
- C. Other parallels.
1. King Jesus leads us to repentance. Acts 5:31
 2. He knew his brothers before they knew Him and loved them when they did not love him. Isa. 1:3 John 1:10-11
 3. Jesus loves us deeply. John 15:13
 4. Jesus hears the pleas of those who call upon Him for mercy. Rom. 10:13
 5. The affectionate reunion of Joseph and his brothers is a picture of the reconciliation between God and man wrought by Christ. Col. 1:20
 6. One day those who rejected Christ will look on Him whom they have pierced with amazement just as Joseph's brothers looked upon him. 45:3 Jo. 19:37 Zec. 12:10

V. Concluding applications.

Discussion questions

1. Why didn't Joseph reveal himself to his brothers after the banquet?
2. Why did Joseph have his cup planted in Benjamin's sack?
3. Did Joseph really practice divination?
4. How did the brothers demonstrate that they had really changed their character?
5. What guilt does Judah admit in 4:16?
6. What is the basis of Judah's appeal to Joseph?
7. How is Judah's action Christlike?
8. How can you imitate what Judah did?
9. What is true repentance?
10. Why is repentance necessary?