

# Changed Brothers and a Redeeming God

Genesis 44 – 45:15

## #1: The Cup Test (vs. 1-13)

### Genesis 44:9

<sup>9</sup> “Whichever of your servants is found with it shall die, and we also will be my lord's servants.”

### Genesis 44:10

<sup>10</sup> ...he who is found with it shall be my servant, and the rest of you shall be innocent.”

### Genesis 44:13

<sup>13</sup> ...they tore their clothes, and every man loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city.

## #2: Judah's Plea to Joseph (vs. 14-34)

### Judah's First Plea

<sup>14</sup> When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there. They fell before him to the ground. <sup>15</sup> Joseph said to them, “What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that a man like me can indeed practice divination?” <sup>16</sup> And Judah said, “What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how can we clear ourselves? God has found out the guilt of your servants; behold, we are my lord's servants, both we and he also in whose hand the cup has been found.” <sup>17</sup> But he said, “Far be it from me that I should do so! Only the man in whose hand the cup was found shall be my servant. But as for you, go up in peace to your father.”

### Judah's Second Plea

<sup>18</sup> Then Judah went up to him and said, “Oh, my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself. <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 young brother, the child of his old age. 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> We said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.’ <sup>23</sup> Then you said to your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see my face again.’

<sup>24</sup> “When we went back to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. <sup>25</sup> And when our father said, ‘Go again, buy us a little food,’ <sup>26</sup> we said, ‘We cannot go down. If our youngest brother goes with us, then we will go down. For we cannot 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> One left me, and I said, “Surely he has been torn to pieces,” and I have

never seen him since. <sup>29</sup> If you take this one also from me, and harm happens to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in evil to Sheol.'

<sup>30</sup> "Now therefore, as soon as I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the boy's life, <sup>31</sup> as soon as he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol. <sup>32</sup> For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.' <sup>33</sup> Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. <sup>34</sup> For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father."

### **Actions that Demonstrate Repentance**

1. Confess
2. Assess our Sorrow

### **2 Corinthians 7:10**

<sup>10</sup> Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

3. Restore Trust

### **Countering "Cancel Culture" Restoration in Community**

#### **#3: Joseph Reveals his Identity (45:1-4)**

<sup>1</sup> Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt."

#### **#4: Joseph Declares God's Faithfulness (vs. 5-8)**

<sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

### Philippians 2:13

<sup>13</sup> *...it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

### Romans 1:24

<sup>24</sup> *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity.*

#### **#5: Joseph Sends for his Father (vs. 9-15)**

<sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup> You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

#### **#6: Closing Reflections**

1. *Ask for Boldness to Forgive*
2. *People Can Change*
3. *You Can Change*