

## Genesis 44 Bible Devotions

### ☐ Monday - Joseph Tests His Brothers.

Genesis 44:4

Joseph's brothers hated him so much for the favoritism he received from Jacob their father (Gen. 37:3-4), that they intended to kill him (Gen. 37:18-20), but later decided to sell him as a slave (Gen. 37:26-28). And twenty years later these same brothers were standing before Joseph, who by God's providence was second in command in Egypt (Gen. 41:39-44), though his brothers did not recognize him (Gen. 42:8). Had they changed? Joseph tested his brothers to find out. *First*, he fed them lunch and Benjamin, the youngest, was given five times as much food as the rest (Gen. 43:34). Would they hate Benjamin for the favoritism he received? *Second*, Joseph planted his silver cup in Benjamin's grain sack (Gen. 44:2), and when it was discovered Joseph threatened to keep Benjamin in Egypt as a slave (Gen. 44:12, 17). Would the brothers abandon their youngest brother and consign him to a life of slavery as they had done to Joseph? Yet Joseph did none of this in revenge for their cruelty towards him. But guided by the hand of God, Joseph tested the hearts of his brothers to bring them to full repentance. In the same way, God is working in you dear child of God. Testing and trying you to bring you to ever deepening confession and repentance. Read Hebrews 12:4-11, James 1:2-4

### ☐ Tuesday - Blind Spots in Your Sanctification.

Genesis 44:7-8

Joseph's brothers were innocent with regard to stealing his silver cup, but were guilty of far greater sins (Gen. 37). But innocence in one matter does not excuse guilt in another. The pharisees looked good on the outside, but inwardly were corrupt (Matt. 23:27). Beware, Christian, a little pharisee lives inside of you who loves to boast in supposed strengths, but ignore "weightier matters" (Matt. 23:23). Read James 2:10

### ☐ Wednesday - They Tore Their Clothes.

Genesis 44:12-13

When Joseph's cup was found in Benjamin's sack, his brothers "tore their clothes" (Gen. 44:12-13), an outward expression of their anguish and sorrow. Twenty years earlier, the sons of Jacob did not care what pain they caused to their father or his favored son (Gen 37:27-33), but now the idea of hurting either produced in them great distress. While all such outward expressions of sorrow may be sincere, God is most concerned with the inward disposition of the heart. The Lord declares, "Rend your heart and not your garments" (Joel 2:13).  
Read Psalm 51:17

### ☐ Thursday - Before the Face of God.

Genesis 44:15

Judah declared, "God has found out the iniquity of your servants" (Gen. 44:15). God's knowledge of our sin is a theme repeated throughout Scripture. For "there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do" (Heb. 4:13). Because God is omniscient and omnipresent, we are always *coram deo*, before the face of God. Let us then live that way: [1] with an awareness of the immediate presence of God; [2] consciously living under the authority of God; [3] and intentionally doing all things to the glory of God. Read Job 11:11, Psalm 90:8

### ☐ Friday - A Beautiful Picture of Christ.

Genesis 44:32-34

Judah pleaded, "Now, therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers" (Gen. 44:33). In his willingness to give his life in place of his brother's, for the sake of his father, Judah is a beautiful picture of Christ. Judah declared, "How shall I *go up to my father* if the lad is not with me?" (Gen. 44:34). So also, Christ would not "go up" to His Father (ascend from the cross) until He had rendered certain the release of all those He came to save (Matt. 20:28).  
Read John 6:39, Ephesians 2:4-7