

## Dreamer: The Life of Joseph A Study in Genesis 37-50

A Final Test  
Genesis 44:1-34  
July 25, 2021

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. - Genesis 44:33

### I. A BRUTAL TEST

- This final test that Joseph enacts is painful for everyone involved, including Joseph (Gen. 44:13, 45:1-2).
- The test, however, demonstrates to Joseph that genuine repentance has taken place in his brothers' lives.
  - \*Joseph's brothers "tore their clothes," as their father had done before them (Gen. 44:13 cf. 37:34).
- Joseph can see with his own eyes and hear with his own ears the change in his brothers. Particularly the change in Judah.

### II. A BROTHER INTERCEDES

- Judah, now the de-facto leader of the family, speaks on behalf of the brothers (Gen. 44:18-34).
- Although they have clearly been set-up, the brothers attribute their circumstances to their own guilt before God (Gen. 44:16).
- Judah's plea, and offer of substitution, demonstrates clearly that changed hearts do indeed make changed lives (Gen. 37:26-27 cf. 44:18-34).

### III. A PERFECT SUBSTITUTE

- Judah makes the final, dramatic step of offering himself as a substitute for his brother. An offer a distant descendent (Jesus) would make and fulfill on our behalf (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24-25).
- Jesus took our place, the righteous for the unrighteous (Isa. 53:4-5; Gal. 3:13; 1 Peter 3:18).

**KNOW:** God has made those in Christ a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come. The substitutionary sacrifice of Christ has purchased our freedom from sin and has made us alive in Christ.

**DO:** Accept the sacrifice of Christ, be transformed...then repent.

#### Suggested Reading:

*In My Place Condemned He Stood: Celebrating the Glory of the Atonement* by J.I. Packer and Mark Dever (Available in the LifePoint Library).

*The Heart of the Gospel* by Robert E. Coleman (LifePoint Library #269.2 COL).

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read Genesis 44:1-34

1. What was the purpose of Joseph's final test for his brothers?
2. Has Joseph gone too far?
3. What does true repentance look like? Consider Galatians 2:20 and 5:24.
4. What should our response be to people who claim to know Christ yet continue on in blatant, public sin? How do we understand passages like 1 Cor. 3:10-15 and Hebrews 6:4-6?
5. What does it mean that Jesus "took our place" on the cross?
6. Have you considered your own life? Are you a new creation in Christ? How do you know?