

March 9, 2014

Scripture: Genesis 43:15 - 44:17 (NAS)

Topic: "Grace Leading to Repentance"

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Genesis 43:15-34

- 15 So the men took this present, and they took double the money in their hand, and Benjamin; then they arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.
- 16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to his house steward, "Bring the men into the house, and slay an animal and make ready; for the men are to dine with me at noon."
- 17 So the man did as Joseph said, and brought the men to Joseph's house.
- 18 Now the men were afraid, because they were brought to Joseph's house; and they said, "It is because of the money that was returned in our sacks the first time that we are being brought in, that he may seek occasion against us and fall upon us, and take us for slaves with our donkeys."
- 19 So they came near to Joseph's house steward, and spoke to him at the entrance of the house,
- 20 and said, "Oh, my lord, we indeed came down the first time to buy food,
- 21 and it came about when we came to the lodging place, that we opened our sacks, and behold, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full. So we have brought it back in our hand.
- 22 "We have also brought down other money in our hand to buy food; we do not know who put our money in our sacks."
- 23 He said, "Be at ease, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.
- 24 Then the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys fodder.
- 25 So they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon; for they had heard that they were to eat a meal there.
- 26 When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present which was in their hand and bowed to the ground before him.
- 27 Then he asked them about their welfare, and said, "Is your old father well, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"
- 28 They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." They bowed down in homage.
- 29 As he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, he said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son."
- 30 Joseph hurried out for he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he sought a place to weep; and he entered his chamber and wept there.
- 31 Then he washed his face and came out; and he controlled himself and said, "Serve the meal."
- 32 So they served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat bread with the Hebrews, for that is loathsome to the Egyptians.
- 33 Now they were seated before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, and the men looked at one another in astonishment.
- 34 He took portions to them from his own table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

Genesis 44:1-12

- 1 Then he commanded his house steward, 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.
- 2 "Put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his money for the grain." And he did as Joseph had told him.
- 3 As soon as it was light, the men were sent away, they with their donkeys.
- 4 They had just gone out of the city, and were not far off, when Joseph said to his house steward, "Up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?'
- 5 'Is not this the one from which my lord drinks and which he indeed uses for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.'"
- 6 So he overtook them and spoke these words to them.
- 7 They said to him, "Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing.
- 8 "Behold, the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks we have brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?"
- 9 "With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."
- 10 So he said, "Now let it also be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and the rest of you shall be innocent."
- 11 Then they hurried, each man lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack.
- 12 He searched, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.
- 13 Then they tore their clothes, and when each man loaded his donkey, they returned to the city.
- 14 When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there, and they fell to the ground before him.
- 15 Joseph said to them, "What is this deed that you have done? Do you not know that such a man as I can indeed practice divination?"

Genesis 44:16-17

- 16 So Judah said, "What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord's slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found."
- 17 But he said, "Far be it from me to do this. The man in whose possession the cup has been found, he shall be my slave; but as for you, go on in peace to your father."

I. GOD'S GRACE

- A. The Core Of The Message Of Salvation *Ephesians 2:8,9*
- B. Is At The Core Of Godly Living *Romans 6:14*
- C. Is The Motivation For Serving *1 Corinthians 15:9,10*
- D. Does Not Lead To Tolerance Of Sin
- E. Leads To A Fear Of God *Psalms 130:34; Romans 2:4*

II. GRACE LEADS TO REPENTANCE AND REVELATION OF GOD'S LOVE

- A. Joseph's Love In Returning Their Money In The Grain
- B. Grace Proceeds Toward Repentance
- C. Grace Brings Guilt Out In The Open
 - 1. Joseph's brothers feared they would be made slaves
 - 2. They sought to use gifts to buy favor

III. GRACE REMOVES FEARS

- A. Response Of Joseph's Steward *Genesis 43:23*
- B. Simeon Returned To His Brothers
- C. Joseph Asked Of Their Welfare And Of Their Father
- D. He Provided A Feast
- E. It Flushed Out Sin *Romans 2:4,5*
- F. It Leads To Repentance