**GENESIS: Exploring The Foundations Of Our Faith – Gen 44**

**Family Reconciliation, Part III…**

**7/14/24**

**#1) …A TEST To Discover Loyalty.**

*Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house: “Fill the men’s sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put each man’s silver in the mouth of his sack.****2****Then put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the* ***youngest one’s*** *sack, along with the silver for his grain.” And he did as Joseph said.* Genesis 44:1-2

***9****If any of your servants is found to have it, he will die; and the rest of us will become my lord’s slaves.”* ***10****“Very well, then,” he said, “let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame.”* ***11****Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it.****12****Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest.****And the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack****.* Genesis 44:11-12

***13****At this, they* ***tore their clothes****. Then they all loaded their donkeys and* ***returned to the city****.* Genesis 44:13

***14****Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in, and they threw themselves to the ground before him.****15****Joseph said to them, “What is this you have done? Don’t you know that a man like me can find things out by* ***divination****?”* Genesis 44:14-15

***16****“What can we say to my lord?”* ***Judah****replied. “What can we say?* ***How can we prove our innocence****?* ***God has uncovered your servants’ guilt****. We are now my lord’s slaves—we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup.”* Genesis 44:16

***17****But Joseph said, “Far be it from me to do such a thing!****Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave.****The rest of you, go back to your father in peace.”* Genesis 44:17

**#2) …Pain Will REVEAL One’s Heart.**

***18****Then* ***Judah****went up to him and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, let me speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself.* Genesis 44:18

***30****“So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father,*

*and* ***if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy’s life****,****31****sees that the boy isn’t there, he will die. Your servants will bring the gray head of our father down to the grave in sorrow.* Genesis 44:30-31

***33****“Now then,* ***please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy****, and let the boy return with his brothers.****34****How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father.”* Genesis 44:33-34

**#3) …Joseph’s FORGIVENESS Leads To Reconciliation!**

*Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.****2****And* ***he wept so loudly*** *that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.*

Genesis 45:1-2

***6****For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping.****7****But* ***God sent me ahead of you*** *to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.****8****“So then,* ***it was not you who sent me here, but God.****He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.* Genesis 45:6-8

**#4) …Brings AUTHENTIC Restoration!**

***9****Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay.****10****You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have.****11****I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’* Genesis 45:9-11

***14****Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping.****15****And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them.****Afterward his brothers talked with him.***Genesis 45:14-15