

JOSEPH TESTS HIS BROTHERS' CHARACTER ONE MORE TIME

Genesis 44

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Tests prove if you're qualified; if you measure up in an area of responsibility.

1. THE ACT – vv. 1-2

This last act of Joseph is going to place Benjamin in danger with himself as the ruler of Egypt. Sometimes it takes a sly way of doing things to catch sly people.

2. THE ACCUSATION – vv. 3-6 “*Why have you repaid evil for good?*”

He remembered how they treated him in an evil way while living with Jacob 20 years earlier. He'd never done them any harm.

3. THE ACCOUNTABILITY – vv. 7-17

a) Proclaimed Their Innocence – vv. 7-8

When we found the money in our sacks when we got back home, we brought it back and Benjamin is with us! Why would he accuse us of something like that?

b) Provided an Indictment – vv. 9-12

This is a very scary moment for them! They've already experienced the wrath of the Vizier of Egypt and was going out on a limb by providing a death sentence for the one who comes up guilty.

c) Provided Proof of Innocence -vv. 11-12a

They didn't waste time to provide proof of their innocence. v. 12a is once again messing with their minds.

d) Proved Not To Be So Innocent – v. 12b –

They reacted violently by tearing their clothes! Tearing of clothing was an outward symbol of inner grief, anguish sorrow and pain (*Genesis 37:29, 34*).

4. THE ANALYSIS – vv. 14-17

a) Joseph's Characterization – v. 14-15

He analyzes their apparent guilt of stealing from his royal house. They didn't bow this time; they fell to the ground as an act of desiring to be shown mercy! Joseph is slowly awakening their consciences to reflect back on what they collectively did to him as a young man

b) Judah's Confession – v. 16

Judah isn't talking about the silver cup being found in the bag anymore. He's talking about Almighty God has finally lowered the gavel on them for what they did to Joseph 20 years earlier! Joseph wants to see if they have relegated Benjamin to the same status as they once had him. Will they be selfish and save their own necks and let Benjamin suffer the fate of slavery and the 10 return to their father with another lie?

c) Joseph's Conclusion – v. 17

Oh my goodness! He's going to keep Benjamin and let the rest of them return home to Jacob?!?!?

5. THE APPEAL – vv. 18-34 Judah explains, begs and pleads!