

Ransomed > Genesis 44:1-34

44:1-13 *Joseph's plan.* Joseph continues the testing of his brothers by secretly placing a valuable cup in Benjamin's bag. This cup is "found" by Joseph's steward, who ends up bringing all of the brothers back before Joseph.

44:14-17 *The brothers' apology.* Even though they did not steal from Joseph, the brothers believe that God is bringing hardship on them on account of their own sin. Joseph is willing to release the other brothers, but Benjamin – as the thief – must remain behind as Joseph's servant.

44:18-34 *Judah's plea.* Judah – in a complete turnaround from what we've seen of him in the past – pleads for Benjamin to be freed. In exchange, he offers his own life up as a slave. In this we see that Judah and the other brothers have changed from when they had sold Joseph into slavery.

Context: The brothers are about to return home after having a wonderful dinner with Joseph (whom they do not yet recognize). Yet, Joseph has plans to test them.

Argument: God can change even the most wicked of people. Joseph's test reveals that even his sinful brothers can be transformed through the work of the Lord.

Gospel: An encounter with Jesus changes a person and molds them into His own pattern. Judah has been so changed by the Lord that he is willing to sacrifice himself for his brother. Jesus is not only willing, but *has* sacrificed Himself for us!

Applications: Do you believe that God changes people? Who do you need to pray for? How will your worship change?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
