

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
GENESIS 43:6-17

INTRODUCTION:

1. Three times Joseph caused trouble for his brothers.
 - a) First, he accused them of being spies. (Gen. 42.8,9)
 - b) Second, he put their money back into their sacks. (Gen. 42.28)
 - c) Third, he put his cup into Benjamin's sack. (Gen. 44.1,2)
2. The brothers of Joseph had a good time with Joseph to their own surprise.
 - a) **GENESIS 43.33:** *"the men looked in astonishment at one another."*
 - b) The brothers leave feeling positive, but that was about to change.
3. There is within this account a divine principle. (Ezek. 18.20).

I. THE DEFENSE OF THE BROTHERS

- A. The brothers offered evidence to prove their innocence.
 1. **GENESIS 44.6:** *"he spoke to them these same words"* (Gen. 43.4,5).
 2. **GENESIS 44.7:** *"Far be it from us."* Very emphatic. There is not even the slightest possibility that we could do such a thing. (cf. Rom. 6.1,2)
 3. The evidence that proved their innocence.
 - a) **GENESIS 44.8:** *"Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks."* (Gen. 43.12,19-23)
 - b) **GENESIS 44.8:** *"How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?"*
 - c) Their evidence: Their previous actions prove intent.
- B. The brothers were willing to accept the punishment if they were guilty.
 1. **GENESIS 44.9:** *"With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."* After his defense, he was confident of being found innocent.
 2. There is no honor in accepting the punishment we deserve. (1 Pet. 2.20; 4.15,16)
 - a) Why was David willing to accept punishment? (Ps. 7.3-5)
 - b) Why was Job willing to accept punishment? (Job 31.38-40)
 3. **GENESIS 44.10:** *"And he said, 'Now also let it be according to your words'"*

II. THE EVIDENCE OF THEIR GUILT

- A. The cup of divination was found.
 1. **GENESIS 44.11,12:** *"the cup was found in Benjamin's sack."*
 - a) Why would Joseph have the cup placed in Benjamin's sack? (Gen. 44.2)
 - b) Joseph wanted his brother with him. (Gen. 42.13,19,20,34; 43.5)
 2. **GENESIS 44.13:** *"Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city."* Once again, their hearts would be tested.
- B. Judah begs for the life of Benjamin.
 1. **GENESIS 44.14,15:** *"What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"* Did Joseph practice divination?
 2. **GENESIS 44.16:** *"God has found out the iniquity of your servants"* (Gen. 43.28).
- C. The very core of the gospel is the freedom from guilt. (Acts 2.38; "Remission" – freedom)
 1. Everyone is guilty of sin. (Rom. 3.23; 5.12)
 2. No one will escape the consequences of sin. (Rom. 2.3; Num. 32.23)
 3. Through the grace of God, there will be no consciousness of sins. (Heb. 10.2)