

Joseph: Brothers' Second Trip to Egypt

Genesis 43-44

Read Genesis 43:1-14.

Ongoing famine forced Jacob to send his sons back to Egypt.

- What strikes you as interesting about Jacob's speech to his sons before sending them to Egypt?
- In what way has God used a challenge to change your heart?

Principle: God uses challenges to change our hearts.

Read Genesis 43:15-34.

The brothers attended a banquet in Joseph's home.

- How did the brothers react to this treatment? Why?
- When has God's kindness and patience led you to repentance?

Principle: God's kindness leads us to repentance.

Read Genesis 44.

Benjamin was accused of stealing Joseph's silver cup and Judah interceded for him.

- What points in Judah's speech show God's work in his heart?
- What can keep someone from confession and repentance?

Principle: God welcomes all who confess their sin and repent.

Review Genesis 43-44.

- What evidence of a God-changed heart have you seen in yourself or the life of someone you know?

Main truth: God, in love, leads His children to repentance.

Scripture Memory Verse

“ ‘And may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved.’ ” – Genesis 43:14

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Love

God has always been love. Before He created the world, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit loved one another. God's love never fails. God loves the world. He showed his love by sending His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as Savior. When we receive His Son as our Savior, we can love God.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

How is it possible to escape the punishment for our sin?

God sent Jesus, the Redeemer, to rescue us and take the punishment for our sin.¹ On our own, we could never escape punishment for sin. God is loving and kind, and in mercy, He sent His Son, Jesus, to redeem us.² At the Cross, Jesus freely chose to follow God's will and take the punishment for our sins.³ Jesus paid the price to free us from sin's slavery and judgment.⁴

John 3:16-17¹; Titus 3:5-6²; Isaiah 53:10-11³; 1 Peter 2:24⁴

Think About It

What makes you think there is punishment for sin?

God put a desire for justice within us. If your friend was kidnapped, wouldn't you be angry and scream for justice? Everyone is born with a conscience because God wants all people to know what is right and what is wrong. We expect justice when others wrong us; we should also expect punishment when we do wrong. We love what is fair and just. It is fair and just for God to punish sin.

Why do people get away with bad things all the time?

God's justice is certain but not immediate. Even though God disciplines His children for their good, it sometimes seems that people get away with sin. Like watching a movie halfway through, we do not see the end of the story. During our lives, God extends mercy to allow people a chance to repent. He sometimes allows people to continue to sin (Romans 1:21-28) as an act of judgment. God warns all people of His certain judgment. In the end, God must judge.

Can I just tell God I am sorry or do something good to make up for the bad things I have done?

Saying "I am sorry" does not fix the problem. We can never do enough good to make ourselves right before a Holy God. Every time we sin, it is like when we break a glass. Saying "I am sorry," does not make the glass new again. It is still broken. Only Jesus can heal our brokenness.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.