

WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

"Passing the Test"

Genesis 44:1-34

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Genesis 44**

2. **Here's a question for you:** *"Why was Joseph considered great?"*

a) Why do you think the Holy Spirit hovered over his life more than any other person in the book of Genesis?

3. **What did he do?**

4. **Why was he so great?**

a) He was great because of his faith in God.

b) *A strong faith leads to a good attitude!!!*

5. Joseph's troubles became challenges to face...not reasons to quit.

6. Joseph is now where God wants him!!!

a) NOW God has to work on Joseph's brothers.

7. **Genesis 42:1-2, 6-11, 12-17, 18-20, 35-38**

8. **Genesis 43:1-10**

9. In chapter 44 the scene is still in the Banquet Hall.

10. **QUESTION:** Have you ever found yourself getting impatient with the PACE at which God works?

a) God moves in a way that allows us to learn slowly and surely so we can reach conclusions that are meaningful to us...as well as to Him.

11. **Very Important:** Proof of greatness lies in being able to endure horrible treatment without resentment.

12. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** Most of life is not "**SUPER-FANTASTIC**"

a) BUT it's all about attitude.

13. Joseph's greatest test was in waiting to see the same attitude he had in his brothers.

a) A powerful faith.

b) And to treat others fairly.

14. Joseph will now give them their FINAL EXAM to see where they are.

HERE'S THE TWO PART FINAL EXAM

I. PART ONE - CONFESSION - VERTICLE

1. Vs 1-2

2. **WOW here we go!!!** Final Exam Part 1.

a) The Silver Cup is placed in Benjamin's sack.

3. All the conditions were set for betrayal.

4. Vs 3-5, 6-13

a) To say the brothers were stunned is an understatement.

5. Vs 14-16

6. Cf 37:18-24, 25-28

7. This is what Joseph was looking for. CONFESSION

a) If they failed the test, if they had no compassion for Benjamin the second son of Rachael, then they would have no part in the fulfillment of God's promises.

8. This was confession from Judah's MOUTH!!!

9. 1 John 1:9

10. **CONFESSION**: means - "*to say the same thing*"

11. Joseph wanted to make sure his brothers were viewing life VERTICALLY.

a) Vs 16

1) "*God has found out the guilt of your servants*"

b) 42:21

1) If it had not been for Reuban, they would have killed Joseph.

II. PART TWO - REPENTANCE - HORIZONTAL

1. There was a new attitude demonstrated.

2. Now for the **HORIZONTAL PART OF THE EXAM.**

3. Vs 17-29, 30-34

a) *"take me instead" Vs 33*

4. **WOW!!!** Judah is now displaying a **REPENTANT HEART**.

a) And because Judah changed, Jacob blessed him.

1) **Genesis 49:1, 8-12**

a. Judah's sacrificial spirit resulted in his being named by Jacob as the son through which Messiah would come.

2) **Matthew 1:1-6**

3) **Revelation 5:5**

5. Joseph needed to be sure of the genuineness of their repentance.

a) He wasn't punishing his brothers for what they had done to him many years earlier.

6. *"You can tell your faith is real if when the Holy Spirit pricks your conscience you bleed repentance."*

Burk Parsons