



## Lesson #8: What is True Repentance? (Genesis 44)

If chapter 45 is a beautiful picture of true \_\_\_\_\_ we could rightly say that chapter 44 is a beautiful picture of true \_\_\_\_\_. The reason this chapter in Genesis is so vital to us centuries later is because repentance is an indispensable part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ. It is a crucial part both of the initial step of \_\_\_\_\_ and of the continued process of sanctification.

Yes, it's true that we will never reach sinless perfection on this earth. But it would be right for us to prayerfully examine why and how you repent. As you walk with God you ought to constantly be turning from sin and to God. In this way you are gradually conforming more and more with what is God-glorifying, and growing to better reflect Christ.

Genesis 44 demonstrates clearly that no \_\_\_\_\_ sinner is beyond the reach of \_\_\_\_\_.

### THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF TRUE REPENTANCE

Before we can unpack the truths about repentance in Genesis 44 we need to review by asking, "What brought them to the point of repentance?"

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ Prodding

The memory of old sin appears to have haunted the brother's conscience. Highlighted in chapter 42 are 5 ways in which their consciences were awakened (we went over those 5 ways during last week's lesson). One person said, "if we put off repentance another day, we have a day more to \_\_\_\_\_ of, and a day less to \_\_\_\_\_ in."

#### B. Divine \_\_\_\_\_

God by his providence tries the spirit that is in us. The events of our lives are ordered so as to bring this about. This is exactly the truth being communicated to the Israelites as they reflected on their wilderness wanderings.

*"And thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to \_\_\_\_\_ thee, and to prove to thee, to know what was in thine \_\_\_\_\_, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments or no." (Deut. 8:2)*

Someone else once said, "Guilt is like the red warning light on the dashboard of the car. You can either stop and deal with the trouble, or break the light."

### THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF TRUE REPENTANCE

Joseph's brothers are about to be truly repentant, but first they must pass some tests of true repentance.

#### A. \_\_\_\_\_ Test

Joseph has the silver cup put in Benjamin's sack but it was never his plan to kill Benjamin. He wants to find out if the brothers will abandon Benjamin the way they had abandoned him. But notice the reaction of the brothers.

- 1) *"They \_\_\_\_\_ their clothes"* (44:13a) – This was an outward demonstration of remorse.
- 2) *"(They) \_\_\_\_\_ to the city"* (44:13b) – Even though Joseph's steward had told them that only the man who stole silver cup would have to come back they chose to share in the blame and guilt.

These were not the same men who had determined to do away with Joseph 22 years ago. They were really repenting.

#### B. \_\_\_\_\_ Test

In every story there is a point where the truth comes out. Now the truth comes out of the mouth of \_\_\_\_\_. Speaking for his brothers he admits there guilty in verse 16.

### THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF TRUE REPENTANCE

The truly repentant man will demonstrate his repentance with a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

#### A. A willing \_\_\_\_\_ of your own \_\_\_\_\_

The hardest truth you will ever face is the truth about \_\_\_\_\_. Judah steps up and boldly uncovered his guilt. He specifically acknowledges that it was "God that uncovered" (44:16).

#### B. A willing \_\_\_\_\_ in others situations

Notice the aspects of true repentance at play in this dialogue

- 1) Judah is \_\_\_\_\_ (44:18)
  - 2) Judah is \_\_\_\_\_ - He hides nothing about himself
  - 3) Judah is accepting \_\_\_\_\_ - He sacrificially accepted punishment
- Judah's speech as well as his \_\_\_\_\_ offer show the spirit of self-sacrifice that comes as a result of true repentance.

#### C. A woeful \_\_\_\_\_ over your sins

Regretting your sins and the \_\_\_\_\_ in your life is not enough! That sorrow for sin must turn to a hatred of sin, a desire to turn from it, and a dependence upon God for forgiveness.

### Concluding Thoughts

So what is true, genuine, biblical repentance? I believe that saving repentance requires engaging the whole man.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledges the guilt of sin (Psalm 51:3)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ sorry over sin (2 Cor. 7:9-10)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ renounces sin and determines to obey God (Isaiah 55:6-7)