

Genesis 44

King James Version (KJV)

44 And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put every man's money in his sack's mouth.

²And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money. And he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken. (Joseph wants to know if they will leave Benjamin to be punished for the theft, or will they defend him)

³As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away, they and their asses. (They left to return home)

⁴And when they were gone out of the city, and not yet far off, Joseph said unto his steward, Up, follow after the men; and when thou dost overtake them, say unto them, Wherefore have ye rewarded evil for good? (Accuse them of the theft of the silver cup)

⁵Is not this it in which my lord drinketh, and whereby indeed he divineth? ye have done evil in so doing. (Joseph's divining was from God, not from a silver cup)

⁶And he overtook them, and he spake unto them these same words.

⁷And they said unto him, Wherefore saith my lord these words? God forbid that thy servants should do according to this thing:

⁸Behold, the money, which we found in our sacks' mouths, we brought again unto thee out of the land of Canaan: how then should we steal out of thy lord's house silver or gold? (We returned the money from the first purchase. Why would we come back to steal?)

⁹With whomsoever of thy servants it be found, both let him die, and we also will be my lord's bondmen. (They unknowingly just sentenced Benjamin to death; and themselves into servitude to Joseph)

¹⁰And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words: he with whom it is found shall be my servant; and ye shall be blameless. (Whoever has the cup will be detained. The rest of you can go)

¹¹Then they speedily took down every man his sack to the ground, and opened every man his sack.

¹² And he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest: and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

¹³ Then they rent their clothes, and laded every man his ass, and returned to the city. (No one left. They all stayed to face the music with Benjamin)

¹⁴ And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.

¹⁵ And Joseph said unto them, What deed is this that ye have done? wot ye not that such a man as I can certainly divine? (Didn't you think that I wouldn't know that you did this?)

¹⁶ And Judah said, What shall we say unto my lord? what shall we speak? or how shall we clear ourselves? God hath found out the iniquity of thy servants: behold, we are my lord's servants, both we, and he also with whom the cup is found. (Judah admits that God is punishing them for what they did to Joseph)

¹⁷ And he said, God forbid that I should do so: but the man in whose hand the cup is found, he shall be my servant; and as for you, get you up in peace unto your father. (Leave Benjamin and go home. Joseph is testing them to see if they will sell out Benjamin; the same way that they sold him out)

¹⁸ Then Judah came near unto him, and said, Oh my lord, let thy servant, I pray thee, speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not thine anger burn against thy servant: for thou art even as Pharaoh.

¹⁹ My lord asked his servants, saying, Have ye a father, or a brother?

²⁰ And we said unto my lord, We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, a little one; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother, and his father loveth him.

²¹ And thou saidst unto thy servants, Bring him down unto me, that I may set mine eyes upon him.

²² And we said unto my lord, The lad cannot leave his father: for if he should leave his father, his father would die.

²³ And thou saidst unto thy servants, Except your youngest brother come down with you, ye shall see my face no more. (You won't see my

face in peace. This expression means – there's going to be trouble if you don't comply)

²⁴ And it came to pass when we came up unto thy servant my father, we told him the words of my lord.

²⁵ And our father said, Go again, and buy us a little food.

²⁶ And we said, We cannot go down: if our youngest brother be with us, then will we go down: for we may not see the man's face, except our youngest brother be with us. (They can only go back to Egypt if Benjamin is with them)

²⁷ And thy servant my father said unto us, Ye know that my wife bare me two sons: (This was Rachel) (This is really degrading to these "other" sons. Jacob never learned. He's still doing it)

²⁸ And the one went out from me, and I said, Surely he is torn in pieces; and I saw him not since: (This is Joseph)

²⁹ And if ye take this also from me, and mischief befall him, ye shall bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. (It would kill him to lose Benjamin)

³⁰ Now therefore when I come to thy servant my father, and the lad be not with us; seeing that his life is bound up in the lad's life;

³¹ It shall come to pass, when he seeth that the lad is not with us, that he will die: and thy servants shall bring down the gray hairs of thy servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

³² For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, If I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever. (Reuben and Judah assured Jacob that they would protect Benjamin)

³³ Now therefore, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad a bondman to my lord; and let the lad go up with his brethren. (Judah is offering himself in trade to let Benjamin go)

³⁴ For how shall I go up to my father, and the lad be not with me? lest peradventure I see the evil that shall come on my father. (This is what Joseph wanted to know. They have changed for the better)

(Joseph also sees now that his going to Egypt was in God's plan to save Egypt, and to save Jacob's family from the drought)