

**Date:** May 17, 2026

**Title:** Providence and Repentance

**Passage:** Genesis 44

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Summary:

I. Providence (v. 1-13)

II. Repentance (v. 14-34)

1. Repentance is earnestness (v.13-14)

2. Repentance is vindication (v.15-17)

3. Real repentance is fear (v.18)

4. Repentance is longing (v.19)

5. Repentance is zeal; and zeal is action.(v.32)

6. Repentance is vengeance; vengeance is justice. (v.33)

7. Repentance is indignation; indignation is hatred (v.34)

Key Truths:

- Comfort and repentance rise and fall together.
- Repentance is the most comforting thing we can do. Our hearts are restless in sin. It can only find comfort in repentance to Christ.
- There are no such things as chance or accidents. Everything is providence. Every occasion of providence is an occasion to repentance. Turn to Christ.
- Repentance is a fierce pursuit of reconciliation. Repentance is not an emotion or conviction. It is not merely feeling bad for sin. Repentance will not rest until it makes things right. It is ache to action.
- True repentance is angry violence against sin. It's hatred towards sin because sin is sin. Sin is lawlessness against God.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Has your comfort in Christ gone cold lately? Has your repentance to Christ gone cold lately?
- What does a life of Biblical repentance look like? What does a life of Biblical comfort look like?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

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**Introduction**

Sermon series from Genesis 37-50

Genesis 37:2a

These are the generations of Jacob.

- The start of the saga.

Here: Genesis 44

- the apex of this saga.
- Judah - shows the change of his heart that has occurred over time.
  - he broke his father's heart by selling Joseph as a slave.

### **Overview**

I. Providence (v.1-13)

II. Repentance (v.14-34)

### **Passage:**

Genesis 44

### **EXPOSITION**

#### **I. PROVIDENCE (v.1-13)**

##### **Genesis 44:1-2**

***Then he commanded the steward of his house, “Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack, and put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, with his money for the grain.” And he did as Joseph told him.***

- Joseph laying the trap to test his brothers.

##### **Genesis 44:3-6**

***As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. They had gone only a short distance from the city. Now Joseph said to his steward, “Up, follow after the men, and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good? Is it not from this that my lord drinks, and by this that he practices divination? You have done evil in doing this.’” When he overtook them, he spoke to them these words.***

- Joseph waited for his brothers to leave town, showing they were willing to leave with Benjamin.

##### **Genesis 44:6-9**

***When he overtook them, he spoke to them these words. They said to him, “Why does my lord speak such words as these? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing! Behold, the money that we found in the mouths of our sacks we brought back to you from the land of Canaan. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's***

***house? Whichever of your servants is found with it shall die, and we also will be my lord's servants."***

- The brothers over-promise in their reaction to the accusation.

**Genesis 44:10**

***He said, "Let it be as you say: he who is found with it shall be my servant, and the rest of you shall be innocent."***

- The brother's over-promise is accepted.

**Genesis 44:11**

***Then each man quickly lowered his sack to the ground, and each man opened his sack.***

- Each of the brothers were quick to prove their own innocence.

**Genesis 44:12**

***And he searched, beginning with the eldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.***

- But the sting has been set and is unfolding.

Questions of Reflection

Has your comfort in Christ gone cold lately?

Has your repentance to Christ gone cold lately?

- Comfort and repentance rise and fall together.
- Repentance is the most comforting thing we can do.

2 Corinthians 7:11

For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

- What is a life of repentance?
  - Ripping our eyes off ourselves and turning it instead onto Christ.
- What is a life of comfort?
  - Grounded in the comfort of Christ - His promises and presence.
- What rest is there in lust, greed, anger, or gossip? Our hearts are restless there. We can only find true comfort in Christ when we repent and turn to Him.

Psalms 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

**1. Repentance is earnestness (v. 13-14)**

**Genesis 44:13-14**

***Then they tore their clothes, and every man loaded his donkey, and they returned to the city. When Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, he was still there. They fell before him to the ground.***

Fulfillment of Joseph's prior dream:

Genesis 37:5-8

Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

**2. Repentance is vindication (v. 15-17)**

**Genesis 44:15**

***Joseph said to them, "What deed is this that you have done? Do you not know that a man like me can indeed practice divination?"***

- Joseph brings to mind the prior dream he had of his brothers and is now coming true.

**Genesis 44:16**

***And Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how can we clear ourselves?"***

- Judah's questioning of his brothers' repentance.

Numbers 32:23

But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.

- There are no such things as chance or accidents. Everything is providence. Every occasion of providence is an occasion to repentance. Turn to Christ.

"We"

- note the corporate. He set himself along with his brother, the accused thief.

**Genesis 44:17**

***God has found out the guilt of your servants; behold, we are my lord's servants, both we and he also in whose hand the cup has been found."***

- Joseph challenges Judah's words.
- Real repentance loves the truth. It is no small thing to sin.

**3. Real repentance is fear (v.18)**

- Real repentance is terrified of sin because of death and judgment.
- In Christ, it is a wonderful fear by which we fall forward to God: How great is Your salvation that we turn to You!

**Genesis 44:18**

***Then Judah went up to him and said, "Oh, my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant, for you are like Pharaoh himself.***

- Judah affirms his repentance.

**4. Repentance is longing (v.19)**

**Genesis 44:19-21**

***My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father, or a brother?' And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age. His brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.' Then you said to your servants, Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.'***

- True repentance craves for righteousness.
  - Longing to live by what God has said.
    - "Then you said..."

**Genesis 44:22-32**

We said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.' Then you said to your servants, Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see my face again.'

"When we went back to your servant my father, we told him the words of my lord. And when our father said, 'Go again, buy us a little food,' we said, 'We cannot go down. If our

youngest brother goes with us, then we will go down. For we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.' Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons. One left me, and I said, "Surely he has been torn to pieces," and I have never seen him since. If you take this one also from me, and harm happens to him, you will bring down my gray hairs in evil to Sheol.'

"Now therefore, as soon as I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the boy's life, as soon as he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol. For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.'

- Judah mentions 28 times: "my father"
  - Judah recognized that he killed his father once (through selling of Joseph)

#### **5. Repentance is zeal; and zeal is action.(v.32)**

##### **Genesis 44:32**

For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.'

- Repentance is a fierce pursuit of reconciliation.
- Repentance is not an emotion or conviction. It is not merely feeling bad for sin.
- Repentance will not rest until it makes things right. Ache to action.

#### **6. Repentance is vengeance; vengeance is justice.**

##### **Genesis 44:33**

***Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers.***

- Repentance will curse my sin, bless all my victims (all those sinned against).

#### **7. Repentance is indignation; indignation is hatred (v.34)**

##### **Genesis 44:34**

***For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father."***

- True repentance is angry violence against sin.
- Hatred towards sin because sin is sin. Sin is lawlessness against God.

2 Corinthians 7:11

For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

Psalms 139:24

And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

***Doxology***

II Corinthians 13

11 Finally, dear brothers and sisters, rejoice! Be restored. Comfort one another. Be like minded. Live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you... 14 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.