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# BUT GOD

A STUDY OF THE  
LIFE OF JOSEPH

"YOUR SECOND MOST  
IMPORTANT DECISION"

GENESIS 44:1 – 45:15

JULY 25, 2021

**Introduction:** Today, we have come to the climax of Joseph's life story -- the revelation of his identity to his brothers. But, embedded in this story we find keys to making life's two most important decisions: the decision to receive forgiveness and the choice to grant forgiveness to others.

## I. **The Key To Receiving Forgiveness: Repentance** (Genesis 44:1-34)

Genesis 44:1-2 <sup>1</sup> "Then he commanded his house steward, saying, '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. <sup>2</sup> Put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his money for the grain.' And he did as Joseph had told him."

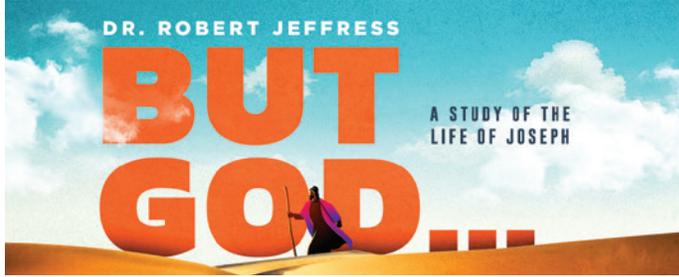
Genesis 44:16 "So Judah said, 'What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord's slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.'"

Genesis 44:17 "But he [Joseph] said, 'Far be it from me to do this. The man in whose possession the cup has been found, he shall be my slave; but as for you, go up in peace to your father.'"

Genesis 44:33-34 <sup>33</sup> "Now, therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. <sup>34</sup> For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me—for fear that I see the evil that would overtake my father?"

### **Genuine Repentance Requires...**

#### **A. Admission of Our Sin** (Genesis 44:16)



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Genesis 44:16 “So Judah said, ‘What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold, we are my lord’s slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.’”

1 John 1:8 “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

### **B. Sorrow for Our Sin** (Genesis 44:13a)

Genesis 44:13a “Then they tore their clothes...”

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

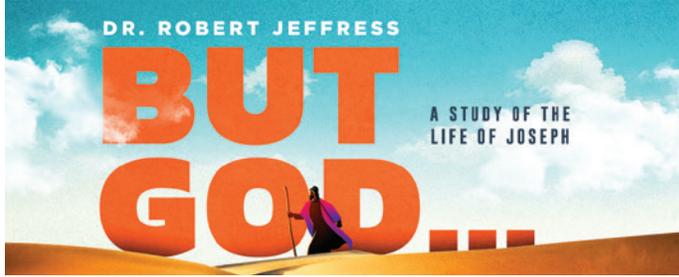
### **C. Turning from Our Sin** (Genesis 44:13b)

Genesis 44:13b “...and when each man loaded his donkey, they returned to the city.”

## **II. The Key To Granting Forgiveness: Faith** (Genesis 45:1-15)

Genesis 45:1-3 <sup>1</sup> “Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried, ‘Have everyone go out from me.’ So there was no man with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard of it. <sup>3</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.”

Genesis 45:5-10 <sup>5</sup> “Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have.’”



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Genesis 45:15 “He kissed all of his brothers and wept on them, and afterward his brothers talked with him.”

### Genuine Forgiveness...

#### A. Resists Unnecessary Embarrassment (Genesis 45:1-2)

Genesis 45:1-2 1 “Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried, ‘Have everyone go out from me.’ So there was no man with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard of it.”

#### B. Relieves Our Offender of Unhealthy Grief (Genesis 45:5)

Genesis 45:5 “And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.”

#### C. Releases Our Offender of Their Obligation (Genesis 45:10)

Genesis 45:10 “And you shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have.”

#### D. Refocuses Everyone’s Attention on the Sovereignty of God (Genesis 45:5-9)

Genesis 45:9 “Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.’”

Proverbs 12:21 “No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble.”

Conclusion