

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

Pastor John Mahaffey

The Path to Transformation: Genesis 44

Sunday, April 24, 2016

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions
or family or personal devotions*

1. Genesis 44 is about the transformation of Joseph's brothers. Compare what happens here to what the brothers did in Chapter 37 to Joseph. What are the similarities and differences?
2. Both Joseph and his brothers were very aware of God's presence in their lives throughout this story, but in very different ways. How did God demonstrate His presence, His power and His providence differently to both Joseph and his brothers in this story thus far?
3. It was said in verse 5 that Joseph used the silver cup for divination – is this the same practice referred to in Leviticus 19:26 and Deuteronomy 18:10, 14 ? Also see Gen 30:27. Have you had experiences with such occultic practices? What have you / should you do to free yourself from its effects?
4. Joseph tempted his brothers by offering them freedom instead of slavery. What was he trying to discover about his brothers? Did he receive what he wanted?
5. What does Judah's pleading before Joseph reveal about the brothers' feelings toward their father, Jacob, and their brother, Benjamin?
6. Pastor John mentioned that part of the transformation process of the brothers involved their acceptance and love for Benjamin, in spite of the favoritism that existed in their household. How do we react to favoritism today? Consider why the brothers eventually accepted or even acquiesced to this situation?

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7. Pastor John explained that the name "Judah" means "Praise". Up until now, Judah has been unworthy of the name that he has been given. Read Proverbs 27:21 and answer the following questions:
 - a. How has Judah been "tested" in this chapter?
 - b. Do you feel that he has earned the name that he has now?
 - c. How does the new information you learned about Judah's willingness to sacrifice his life, and its comparison to Christ's own sacrifice, change your perspective about Christ coming from this man's lineage? Does it make more sense to you now than it did before?

8. What can we learn from Judah about Jesus' acts of redemption on our behalf?

9. When we accept Jesus as our savior, we are saved, but this is not the end of God's work in us. Read Hebrews 10:14 and discuss the difference between the sacrifice for SALVATION and the continual process of SANCTIFICATION.

10. Can you remember, and share with your group, the Spirit's actions in the uncovering of your sin? Have you needed his "uncovering" since you were first saved?

11. How committed are you to allowing God to continue his work of grace in making you a holy person? How are you cooperating with him in this (see Phil. 2:1-13)?

12. Read Romans 12:1-2, and rephrase into your own words. What can we do to help us stay in a godly, transformed state??

13. Can you cite situations in which the transforming grace of God has affected the way in which you relate to others?