



Speaker: Pastor Matt Magee

Series: Genesis - Meant for Good

Sermon Title: What is This You Have Done

Scripture: [Genesis 44](#)

KEY QUESTION: What is this deed that you have done?

OUTLINE:

1. Joseph makes his brothers face the ultimate test (1-13)
 1. After the banquet (43:9), Joseph sends his brothers home with their grain (and his silver cup he planted in Benjamin's sack) (1-3)
 2. Joseph's steward "overtakes" them and accuses them of theft (4-6)
 3. The brothers offer to serve Joseph as a slave if they are found guilty...they are brimming with confidence (7-10)
 4. The silver cup is found in Benjamin's sack and he is arrested (11-13)
2. Joseph confronts his brothers (14-17)
 1. Joseph's brothers bow before him again in fulfillment of his childhood dreams (44:14; 37:5-11, 19-20)
 2. Judah speaks for his brothers again (14, 16)
 3. What guilt does Judah admit? (44:16, 42:21)
 4. They all offer to serve as Joseph's slaves but Joseph offers to release all the brothers except for Benjamin (16-17)
 5. Joseph confronts his brothers, and God confronts us!
3. Judah intercedes for Benjamin (18-34)
 1. Judah keep his promise to his father Jacob (18-34; 43:9, 49:8)
 2. Judah is more concerned about others than himself (18-31)
 3. Judah offers to be punished in Benjamin's place, even though he knew he (Judah) didn't steal the silver cup (32-34)

SEE THE GOSPEL: Look through the eyes of your heart—the eyes of faith—and SEE both similarity and contrast between Judah's willingness to take Benjamin's place and Christ who took our place.

- In this passage, Judah—a sinful man—offers to take the place of Benjamin—an innocent man (at least in this scenario).

- In the Gospel, Jesus—the sinless God-Man—freely took the place of you and me—sinful men and women.

4 PRINCIPLES OF APPLICATION:

1. Because God loves His children, He tests you, to gauge your repentance.
2. God knows how to put His finger on *just* the right area of our lives to bring us to the point of confession and repentance (1 Chronicles 29:17).
3. We must approach God by submitting to His authority and owning up to our sin, motivated by His compassion.
4. Without repentance, there can be no reconciliation.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Begin by re-reading Gen. 44:12-17 and 30-34.
2. How do you respond when being accused by the Holy Spirit, or another believer, of doing wrong?
3. Are grace and obedience opposing concepts? How do they fit together?
4. Do we emphasize God's love: a) too much? b) not enough? c) about right? What about His wrath and judgment? Do we emphasize God's love as only (or primarily) kind and forgiving, or also as love that motivates God to put his hand of conviction on us, pointing right to our sin?
5. How do repentance and faith fit together? Is repentance necessary for salvation or is faith alone sufficient?
6. A false concept of grace in our day has led many Christians to be too sloppy about sin and too much like "best friends" with God.
7. How can a person who has been deeply hurt cultivate an attitude of submission to God? How can we root out bitterness?
8. Are we ever justified to blame others for problems we face? Is it ever emotionally or spiritually healthy to blame? Why/why not?
9. How can we repent if we don't feel deep sorrow over our sin? Is sorrow necessary? How do we get it?
10. DEEPER STUDY: Review and compare all 8 uses of this phrase "What is this you have done?" in Genesis. What are the differences in the accounts? What are the differences in the responses?

1. Gen. 3:13
2. Gen. 4:10
3. Gen. 12:18
4. Gen. 20:9

5. Gen. 26:10
6. Gen. 29:25
7. Gen. 31:26
8. Gen. 44:15