

# Home Group Questions

the week of 11/11/2018

Genesis 44:1-45:3

## TEST OF TRUE REPENTANCE

### GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel preached on Joseph. A few months ago, Pastor Mel based a mini-series on forgiveness on the life of Joseph, however, this sermon focuses on repentance and the test of repentance that Joseph put his brothers through in Genesis 42-45.

### LOOKING IN THE WORD...

**1. Read Genesis 42:18-25.** The brothers who sold Joseph into slavery, stand (bow) before him in Egypt but don't recognize him. Joseph knows who they are right away and his response to them comes after he tests them to see if they have truly changed from the sin of selling him into slavery. Joseph puts them in prison for three days accusing them of being spies. How does the reaction of the brothers inform us about what has been on their minds since they sold Joseph into slavery 20 years earlier? What does this say about the work of God in our lives when we sin (read John 16:18).

**2. I know this is a long read...but read Genesis 44:1-45:3.** What does this Chapter tell you about Judah and the rest of Joseph's brothers? What qualities did they now possess that indicated to Joseph that they were truly changed individuals? Talk about what true repentance means and how repentance ties into life change. How important is the concept of ongoing repentance in the process of sanctification to you in your life?

**3. Read the following quote and discuss how it relates to repentance and our modern day culture:**

*"Noted secular author Aram Bakshian Jr. wrote in the Wall Street Journal a while back, "One paradox of our time is that many of the same sociologists and psychologists who insist that we are not responsible for our own behavior are adamant about holding us accountable for everyone else's. The sins of the child are visited (shifted to) upon the parent, those of the criminal upon society, those of the protestor upon the politician, and so on, in an endless daisy chain of deferred guilt. While this phenomenon has been profitable for publishers of pop psychiatry and the makers of couches, its impact on the rest of us has been less edifying. "*

- The concept of repentance implies that people take responsibility for their actions, evaluate them in light of God's Word, and if they are sinful, show genuine sorrow and repentance. What else strikes you about the quote above and how it relates to the modern day tendencies we see in our culture? How can we battle these tendencies in our own lives of shifting blame for our sins to others?

**4. Discuss the three facets of repentance that were shared in the sermon and look up the verses:**

How can we monitor each of these facets of repentance in our own lives and remain humble followers of Christ so that we do repent when needed:

Three facets of repentance:

**1. Repentance at salvation** Acts 3:19; 5:31; 20:21

-legal forgiveness Luke 5:31-32

**2. Repentance as part of sanctification** Luke 17:3

-relational forgiveness with God

**3. Repentance in relational restoration** Luke 17:3

-relational forgiveness with people

**MOVING FORWARD...** Pray for a heart of repentance!