

Gen43:23 But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

44:12 So he searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

44:13 Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

44:14 So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground.

44:15 And Joseph said to them, "What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"

44:16 Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found."

44:17 But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."

44:18 Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh.

44:19 "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?'

44:20 "And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.'

44:21 "Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.'

44:22 "And we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'

44:23 "But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.'

44:24 "So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord.

44:25 "And our father said, 'Go back and buy us a little food.'

44:26 "But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'

44:27 "Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons;

44:28 'and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since.

44:29 'But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.'

44:30 "Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life,

44:31 "it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

44:32 "For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.'

44:33 "Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.

44:34 "For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"

45:1 Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

45:2 And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

45:3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.

45:4 And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

45:5 "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

45:6 "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.

45:7 "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

45:8 "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

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 tarry.

45:10 "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have.

45:11 "There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine." '

45:12 "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

45:13 "So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."

45:14 Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.

45:15 Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

45:16 Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

45:17 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan.

45:18 'Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land.

45:19 'Now you are commanded-do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come.

45:20 'Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.' "

45:21 Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey.

45:22 He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments.

45:23 And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey.

45:24 So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."

45:25 Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.

45:26 And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.

45:27 But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.

45:28 Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

From today's sermon

Joseph's brothers got themselves into trouble in Egypt, and they said to each other, "We are indeed guilty of our brother's death. When he kept begging us, we didn't listen to him, and now we are suffering for it."

Twenty years have passed since then. It is shown that one must certainly reap what one has

sown. Even if you think you have covered up your sins, the time will come when you will be brought before an absolute authority and you will have to atone for your sins. However, Joseph treated them kindly. He had his servants say to them

“Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. The treasure that your God, your father's God, has given you in the bag is what he gave you” (43:23).

Then he hears these words from his brother Judah, who is protecting his younger brother Benjamin: “Please let my servant remain as your slave, my master's slave, and let this child go up with his brothers”

Hearing these words, Joseph realized how seriously they were thinking about their father and brother, and he spoke to them.

“I am your brother Joseph. I am the one you sold into Egypt. But do not be sad or regretful that you sold me here. God sent me before you to save your lives.” Despite seeing the seeds of discord among them, there was forgiveness and blessing in his heart. We are in awe of the Lord's work of mercy, which even turns cruel acts into salvation.

Good morning everyone.

The story of Joseph has reached its moving climax, with his reunion with his family. More than 20 years have passed since then.

No one knew the truth of their crime. But that was not to be. The brothers would come to stand before the absolute authority of Egypt and say, “We are guilty of our brother's crime. When he was constantly begging us, we did not listen to him, and now we are suffering for it.”

They were accused of wrongdoing in Egypt, told to bring their brother, and had Simeon taken hostage... It was a series of weakening circumstances for them. However, this was the result of their own sin.

One must reap what one sows.

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever one sows, that one will also reap.

6:8 For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

6:9 Let us not be weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

They abandoned their brother and let him die. How can a person make amends for another person's life?

Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 5:20 I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

5:21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not kill; you shall be judged if you kill.

5:22 But I say to you, that whoever is angry with his brother shall be judged; and whoever shall call his brother a fool shall be delivered to the council; and whoever shall say, 'Fool' shall be thrown into the fire of hell.

Matthew 19:23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Listen carefully. It is hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.

19:24 I tell you that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

19:25 When his disciples heard this, they were very surprised and asked, "Then who can be saved?"

19:26 Jesus looked at them and said, "It is not possible for man, but not for God."

"Who, then, can be saved?" This is not just a problem for the rich man mentioned here, but for all human beings who go against God's will.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

3:24 they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

3:25 God put him forward as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished

3:26 in order to demonstrate God's righteousness at this time. In this way, God himself will be righteous, and he will also make those who believe in Jesus righteous.

3:27 Where, then, is our boasting? It is in no way due to us, but rather due to God, who is the one who justifies.

How are the brothers led? They go home and tell their father about the high-ranking man in Egypt who told them to bring their brother. Their father is perplexed. As time passes, he is also concerned about Simeon, and there is a shortage of food, so finally Jacob allows Benjamin to go. The brothers tell him that in Egypt, the silver that they had paid for the grain last time

was still in the bag.

43:19 They went up to Joseph's steward and said, "We came down at first to buy food.

43:20 But when we opened our sacks at the inn, we found our silver in the mouths of our sacks, and the weight of the silver was as it was. We have brought it back with us.

43:21 Then we came down again to buy food. 43:22 And we brought the other silver with us, the same as we had brought before, and we put it in the same sacks.

43:22 And we also came down to buy food, and the other silver we have brought. We do not know who put our silver in the bags."

43:23 He said, "Do not be afraid. Be at ease. Your treasure has been given to you by your God and by your father's God. Your silver has been received." Then he brought Simeon to them.

43:27 Joseph asked about their welfare, saying, "Is your father, the old man you spoke of, still alive? Is he still living?"

43:28 They answered, 'Your servant, our father, is alive and well, and he is still living.' Then they bowed down and worshiped him.

43:29 Joseph looked up and saw his brother Benjamin, the son of his mother, and said, "Is this your youngest brother whom you told me about? And he said, "May God be gracious to you, my son.

43:30 Joseph was overcome with emotion for his brother, and he hurried to find a place to weep. He went into a room and wept there.

43:31 He then washed his face and came out. He controlled himself and said, "Let's eat."

43:23 He said, "Do not be afraid. Do not be afraid. The treasure is yours, the God of your father has given it to you in your bags."

We thank God who does not make us pay the price we should pay, but redeems us with a substitute, and fills us with food, life and happiness. God speaks to us through his word, saying, "Be at ease, do not be afraid."

John 16:31 Jesus answered, "Do you believe now?

16:32 "Behold, the hour is coming, and now is, when you will be scattered to your respective homes, and you will leave Me alone. But I am not alone, for the Father is with Me.

16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

44:2 Also, put my cup, the silver cup, into the mouth of the youngest's bag with the money for the grain." The steward did as Joseph had said.

Then Joseph once again tests his brothers. He puts the silver cup into Benjamin's bag, and accuses him of taking it. What do the brothers do? Do they give up on the youngest son, who was once so doted on by their father?

44:11 So they each hurriedly unrolled their sacks on the ground and opened them.

44:12 The steward began with the oldest and ended with the youngest, and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.

44:13 Then they tore their clothes and loaded their donkeys with their goods and returned to the city.

44:14 Judah and his brothers entered Joseph's house, and when they saw Joseph still there, they bowed down to the ground before him.

44:15 Joseph said to them, "What is this you have done? Don't you know that a man like me can surely divine?"

44:16 Judah said, "What shall we say to our lord? How can we clear ourselves? God has revealed the sin of his servants. Let us and the man who has the cup be slaves to our lord."

44:17 Joseph said, "Never will I do such a thing. The one who has the cup must be my slave, and the rest of you may go up to your father in peace."

44:18 At this, Judah approached him and said, "Oh, my lord, let my lord's ear hear a word. Do not be angry with your servant. You are like Pharaoh.

44:19 My lord asked his servants, 'Do you have a father and a brother?'

44:20 We said to my lord, 'We have an old father and a young brother. The brother is dead, and there is no one else of the same mother's children. The father loves him.

44:21 At that time you said to your servants, 'Bring him to me, and I will see him with my own eyes.

44:22 We said to our Lord, 'The child cannot be separated from his father. If he is separated from his father, his father will die.

44:23 But you said to your servants, 'Unless the youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.

44:24 So we went up to our father, who was your servant, and told him the words of our Lord.

44:25 Then our father said to us, 'Go again and buy a little food for us.

44:26 We said, 'We cannot go down. If your younger brother is with you, we will go; if not, we cannot see his face.

44:27 Your father, our master, said, 'As you know, my wife bore me two sons.

44:28 One has gone out, and I am sure he has been torn to pieces. I have not seen him to this day.

44:29 If you take this child from me, and if anything happens to him, you will make me, a

gray-haired man, go down to the grave in sorrow.

44:30 What will become of me when I go to my father, your servant, if I do not have this child with me? For his soul is bound up with the child's soul.

44:31 If he sees that the child is not with us, he will die. Then your servants will be grieved, and they will send your servant the father of the white-haired man to the underworld.

44:32 Your servant has sworn to his father, saying, 'If I do not bring this child back to you, I will bear guilt before my father forever.

44:33 Please let my servant remain as your slave instead of this child, and let this child go up with his brothers.

44:34 How can I go up to my father without this child? I cannot bear to see my father suffer.”

Judas, the fourth son of Leah, said that he did not want to see his father's grief, and so he begged to have his youngest son returned to him. He said that his father had already lost another child he loved, and he could not bear any more grief. He swore to his father that he had brought him here, so please let me stay as a slave in his place, and let this child go home.

Here, too, we have a story of substitution and redemption. Judah's words, that he would protect this child even at the cost of his own life, were full of spirit. He truly cared for his father and brother.

45:1 Then Joseph could not hold back his tears any longer, and he called out, “Everyone, please leave me alone!” When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, no one stood by him.

45:2 Joseph cried out with a loud voice, and the Egyptians heard it, and Pharaoh's house heard it.

45:3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” His brothers could not answer, because they were astonished.

45:4 Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they came close, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold to Egypt.

45:5 But do not be grieved or repentant that you sold me here, for God sent me before you to save your lives.

When Joseph saw his brother's true feelings, he was relieved to know that Benjamin had not been abandoned like he had been, and he could not hold back the tears that welled up inside him. He no longer hid himself.

And Joseph spoke words of forgiveness and blessing to his brothers.



45:4 Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they came close to him, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold to Egypt.

45:5 But do not be grieved or repentant, for God sent me before you to save your lives.

"Do not grieve or be sorry" is translated in the New Revised Standard Version as 'Do not be sorry or feel guilty', and in the original Hebrew it says 'Do not be grieved or have anger in your eyes'.

Even though Joseph had shared a meal with them, and they were moved by the depth of Judah's heart as he wept and begged them to approach him, and even though their father spoke to them with a softened heart, asking how their father was, the brothers were still fearful of retribution from Joseph. Even after he had come here, they still did not trust him, and they were convinced that he would surely take advantage of their momentary lapse in vigilance and take them out, leaving them to their own devices. Even now, after 20 years of waiting, they were still such unsettled brothers that they looked at each other with angry eyes rather than feeling regret for having taken Joseph out of their lives, seeing it as a terrible mistake.

When I think about it, we are certainly guilty of the younger brother's suffering. When he was constantly begging, we did not listen to him, seeing his heart's anguish. They were weak because their flag was in a bad position and the wind was blowing against them, and I think that they were far from true repentance and contrition.

I think that the frivolous nature of human beings is exposed and revealed here. The Bible says that we are saved through repentance, and that we are redeemed simply by believing, not by our own strength or by our own offerings, but I think that this passage shows us that our repentance is not something that is accepted because it is a passing grade. It teaches us that everything is due to God's grace, mercy and blessing.

45:5 But do not grieve or be sorry, for God has sent me before you to save your lives.

45:6 It was the time of the famine in the land, and for five years there was no harvest.

45:7 God sent me before you to leave your descendants in the land and to save your lives with a great deliverance.

God sent Jesus, suffered with us, went ahead of us, and opened up the way of salvation for us. We cannot possibly think that we were saved as a result of our own bad behavior or because our brothers and sisters abandoned Joseph. Human sin is truly atrocious. However, God takes

that sin, that atrocious deed, and through the suffering of one person, transforms it into salvation for us through His overwhelming grace.

How can we remain in sin when we know of such a work of God? If our sins have been forgiven this time, would we think to ourselves, "I'll be more careful next time so I don't get caught"? God forgives us and leads us back from the path of destruction to the path of life by taking our atrocious deeds and making them the suffering of one person, with overwhelming grace and love.

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?

6:2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

6:4 That is, we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

6:5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection.

6:6 We know this: that our old man was crucified with him, so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

6:7 For he who has died is freed from sin.

6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

6:9 For we know that if Christ has been raised from the dead, he will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

6:10 For the death he died was to sin once for all, and the life he lives is to God.

6:11 In this way you also should acknowledge that you are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

6:12 Therefore do not submit your members to sin, so that they may be instruments of unrighteousness, 6:13 but rather present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

6:14 For you are not under law, but under grace, so that you will not be dominated by sin.

6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law, but under grace? By no means!

◇Prayer; **Heavenly Father, thank you for today's service.**

**You have turned the brothers' cruel and sinful actions into salvation for the whole family and nation through Joseph's sacrificial life. Bad actions should not be done, but you forgive people's mistakes through the sacrifice and atonement of your Son, and lead them back from destruction to life, so thank you very much. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our family and the people in our community. Please use us. I pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen**