

The Test of Love  
Genesis 44

Review:

1. Since all of us have sinned, when we face injustice or unfairness, we should come before God in humble confession, not in angry self-righteousness
2. True repentance requires not just sorrowful confession, but active turning away from our sin and turning toward God
3. True love is like the love of Christ: willing to keep its promises to sacrifice itself for the benefit of the undeserving

Reflect:

1. In what areas of your life are you holding back from God and from others the love that He and they deserve?
2. Is there someone among your family or close friends who you don't feel is worthy of your help? What can you do to express your love for them?

Go further: Read Psalm 81

1. In verse 1, how does Asaph urge us to worship? How does he describe God?
2. In verses 2 and 3, what instruments does Asaph say we should use in our worship?
3. On what special occasion does Asaph say worship is appropriate?
4. According to verse 4, Who commands us to worship in this way?
5. When does verse 5 say that Israel received this commandment?
6. What does verse 5 say happened to Israel during their time in Egypt? Why would this situation pose a problem for the Israelites?
7. Starting in verse 6, we hear God speaking for the rest of the Psalm. How does God say He has relieved His people?
8. In verse 7, how does God describe His reaction when His people called out to Him?
9. What does God say He did to His people at the waters of Meribah?
10. What does the Lord want His people to do in verse 8? Why is this so important in worship?
11. What does God forbid His people to do in verse 9?
12. In verse 10, what does God say He has done for His people? What does He want to give them?
13. According to verse 11, what two things did God's people not do?
14. According to verse 12, what did God do to His people in return?
15. According to verse 13, what two things does God want His people to do?
16. In verse 14, what two things does God promise to do if His people would obey Him?
17. In verse 15, what does God promise will happen to those who hate Him?
18. How does God promise to bless His people in verse 16?

Summary and Application:

1. According to Numbers 10:10, God commands His people to worship Him by blowing trumpets. Why do you think such obedience is an essential part of worship?

2. Exodus 17:1-7 tells the story of how the people grumbled against Moses because they had no water to drink at Meribah. How does this behavior form a contrast with a true attitude of worship?
3. Given everything Asaph has told us in Psalm 81, in what concrete ways can we express our love and devotion for God?