

**“What is this that God
has done to us?”**

Genesis 42-44

“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 42:1-5

1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you just keep looking at each other?” **2** He continued, “I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.” **3** Then ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.

4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. **5** So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for there was famine in the land of Canaan also.

“What is this that God has done to us?”

“Their mother, Rachel had died, and Jacob thought Joseph also was dead. Jacob did not want to lose Benjamin, the remain son of his beloved Rachel.”

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“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 42:6-9

6 Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph’s brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. **7** As soon as

Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. “Where do you come from?” he asked. “From the land of Canaan,” they replied, “to buy food.”

8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. **9** Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected.”

“What is this that God has done to us?”

“Joseph remembered his dreams about his brothers bowing down to him. His dreams were coming true!

As a young boy, Joseph had been boastful about his dreams. As a man, he no longer flouted his superior status... It was not yet time to reveal his identity, so he kept quite.”

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“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 42:10-14

10 “No, my lord,” they answered. “Your servants have come to buy food. **11** We are all the sons of one man. Your servants are honest men, not spies.” **12** “No!” he said to them. “You have come to see where our land is unprotected.”

13 But they replied, “Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more.” **14** Joseph said to them, “It is just as I told you: You are spies!

“What is this that God has done to us?”

“Although 21 years had passed since he had last seen them, they had been adults at the time and their appearance had not changed much. Joseph, 17 years old at the time of his enslavement was now an adult in an unexpected position of authority, wearing Egyptian clothes, and speaking to his brothers through an interpreter. He was, moreover, shaved in the Egyptian manner.”

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“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 42:15-24

15 And this is how you will be tested:
As surely as Pharaoh lives, you will
not leave this place unless your
youngest brother comes here. **16** Send
one of your number to get your
brother; the rest of you will be kept in
prison, so that your words may be
tested to see if you are telling the
truth. If you are not, then as surely as
Pharaoh lives, you are spies!”

17 And he put them all in custody for three days. **18** On the third day, Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live, for I fear God: **19** If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison, while the rest of you go and take grain back for your starving households. **20** But you must bring your youngest brother to me, so that your words may be verified and that you may not die.” This they proceeded to do.

21 They said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come on us.” **22** Reuben replied, “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn’t listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.”

23 They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter. **24** He turned away from them and began to weep, but then came back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.

“What is this that God has done to us?”

**“The brothers realized they
were beginning to reap what
they had sown.”**

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“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 42:25-28

25 Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, to put each man's silver back in his sack, and to give them provisions for their journey.

After this was done for them, **26** they loaded their grain on their donkeys and left.

27 At the place where they stopped for the night one of them opened his sack to get feed for his donkey, and he saw his silver in the mouth of his sack. **28** “My silver has been returned,” he said to his brothers.

“Here it is in my sack.” Their hearts sank and they turned to each other trembling and said, “What is this that God has done to us?”

“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 42:36-38

36 Their father Jacob said to them, “You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!”

37 Then Reuben said to his father,
“You may put both of my sons to
death if I do not bring him back to
you. Entrust him to my care, and I
will bring him back.” **38** But Jacob
said, “My son will not go down
there with you; his brother is dead
and he is the only one left. If harm
comes to him on the journey you
are taking, you will bring my gray
head down to the grave in sorrow.”

“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 43:1-10

1 Now the famine was still severe in the land. **2** So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go back and buy us a little more food.” **3** But Judah said to him, “The man warned us solemnly, ‘You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.’”

4 If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you. **5** But if you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, ‘You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.’” **6** Israel asked, “Why did you bring this trouble on me by telling the man you had another brother?”

7 They replied, “The man questioned us closely about ourselves and our family. ‘Is your father still living?’ he asked us. ‘Do you have another brother?’ We simply answered his questions. How were we to know he would say, ‘Bring your brother down here’?” **8** Then Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die.

9 I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life. **10** As it is, if we had not delayed, we could have gone and returned twice.”

“What is this that God has done to us?”

**“From this point forward,
Judah became the spokesman
for his brothers. His tribe would
become preeminent among the
12 tribes, and he would become
an ancestor of Jesus.”**

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“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 43:19-23

19 So they went up to Joseph’s steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house. **20** “We beg your pardon, our lord,” they said, “we came down here the first time to buy food. **21** But at the place where we stopped for the night we opened our sacks and each of us found his silver — the exact weight — in the mouth of his sack. So we have brought it back with us.

22 We have also brought additional silver with us to buy food. We don't know who put our silver in our sacks." **23** "It's all right," he said. "Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you treasure in your sacks; I received your silver." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

“What is this that God has done to us?”

**“The steward spoke better
than he knew.”**

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“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 44:1-3

1 Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house: “Fill the men’s sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put each man’s silver in the mouth of his sack. **2** Then put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one’s sack, along with the silver for his grain.” And he did as Joseph said. **3** As morning dawned, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys.

“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 44:4-6

4 They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to his steward, “Go after those men at once, and when you catch up with them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid good with evil? **5** Isn’t this the cup my master drinks from and also uses for divination? This is a wicked thing you have done.’ ” **6** When he caught up with them, he repeated these words to them.

“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 44:10-12

10 “Very well, then,” he said, “let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame.” **11** Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it. **12** Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack.

“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 44:15-17

15 Joseph said to them, “What is this you have done? Don’t you know that a man like me can find things out by divination?” **16** “What can we say to my lord?” Judah replied. “What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants’ guilt. We are now my lord’s slaves — we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup.”

17 But Joseph said, “Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace.”

“What is this that God has done to us?”

“Like Joseph's steward, Judah spoke better than he knew. Or perhaps he refers both to the present event and to the guilt of their sin against Joseph.”

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“What is this that God has done to us?”

Genesis 44:32-34

32 Your servant guaranteed the boy’s safety to my father. I said, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!’ **33** “Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. **34** How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father.”

“What is this that God has done to us?”

“When Judah was younger, he had shown no regard for his brother Joseph or his father Jacob. First he had convinced his brothers to sell Joseph as a slave, then he had joined his brothers in lying to his father about Joseph’s fate. But what a change had taken place in Judah!

The man who had sold one favored brother into slavery now offered to become a slave himself to save another favored brother. He was so concerned for his father and his younger brother that he was willing to die for them.”

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Life Applications

- **Jesus can change anyone**
- **Jesus died for us, to pay the penalty for our sin**

Final Thoughts

“When you are ready to give up hope on yourself or someone else, remember that God can work a complete change in even the most selfish person.”

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Final Thoughts

Romans 5:5-8

5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. **6** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.