

Read Genesis 44:11-17

11 They all quickly took their sacks from the backs of their donkeys and opened them.

12 The palace manager searched the brothers' sacks, from the oldest to the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack!

13 When the brothers saw this, they tore their clothing in despair. Then they loaded their donkeys again and returned to the city.

14 Joseph was still in his palace when Judah and his brothers arrived, and they fell to the ground before him.

15 "What have you done?" Joseph demanded. "Don't you know that a man like me can predict the future?"

16 Judah answered, "Oh, my lord, what can we say to you? How can we explain this? How can we prove our innocence? God is punishing us for our sins. My lord, we have all returned to be your slaves—all of us, not just our brother who had your cup in his sack."

17 "No," Joseph said. "I would never do such a thing! Only the man who stole the cup will be my slave. The rest of you may go back to your father in peace."

When the palace manager caught up with the brothers and searched their sacks, what did he find (vv. 11-12)? He found the silver cup in Benjamin's sack.

How did the brothers react (v. 13)? They were so upset. They tore their clothes. They thought the governor of the land (Joseph) was going to take Benjamin away from them and make them go home to Jacob without him.

Where did they all go then? Back to the city and the palace.

What did they do when they saw Joseph (v. 14)? They fell down to the ground in front of him. They were ashamed and embarrassed and afraid.

What did Joseph say to them (v. 15)? Don't you realize how important the silver cup is to me. I can use it to predict the future.

Did Joseph really use the silver cup to predict the future? No. Only God can predict the future. But Joseph could interpret dreams if God explained them to him. He didn't use the silver cup to do it though. That would make the silver cup like an idol.

What did Judah say to Joseph (v. 16)? (Read)

Judah spoke up even though Reuben was the oldest of the brothers. What does that say about Judah? He is a leader. He is willing to speak up even when it's hard and scary.

What did Joseph say then (v. 17)? Only the one who stole the silver cup has to stay here to be my slave. The rest of you can go home.

Did Benjamin really steal the silver cup? No. The palace manager put it in his sack to make it look like he stole it.