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Genesis 44:32-34

The Slave in Place of Me

We often think it would be great if someone could take our place when we have a difficult job, or we do not have time to do it. I would be happy if someone who promised to do it instead is an expert in that area. I would feel even more happy if that expert does not want anything in return and I get to enjoy all the benefits and glory. This is the story I want to talk about today. It is the story of a person who volunteer to do something no one wants to. he made many positive changes because of his actions.

Genesis 43:1-2

Now the famine was still severe in the land. 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.”

Jacob did not change his mind on sending Benjamin to Egypt. He would not give up Benjamin yet still told his sons to go back and buy more food.

In Genesis 43:6 Jacob’s name is changed to “Israel.” Whenever he had spiritual change in the Bible, he was called “Israel.” As Reuben awakened and influenced Jacob and his sons, Judah does so in this chapter. Judah was the fourth son of Jacob. Judah was the one who led brothers not to kill Joseph, but to sell him to the Ishmael merchants. You might say it is a much better idea than killing, but Judah was the one who ruined Reuben’s plan, which he secretly tried to return Joseph back to house after a while. In the Bible, Judah gives birth to a son through his daughter in law.

Judah was a son who received the great expectation of his mother, Rebekah, and a son with the name “Praise God.” But he lived a life that is outrageous. Then he appeared in today’s chapter. He is a son who breaks through his father’s strong heart. Judah is the reason why Bible calling Jacob to Israel in this chapter.

With fear and trembling, they arrived in Egypt again. The Egyptian Prime Minister, who was so stern and scared became so kind. They had a great time at a prime minister’s house, receiving great hospitality. Benjamin spent the time with much interest and love. And then something unexpected happened.

“Prime Minister’s silver cup is missing.” “You are definitely the culprit.” But Jacob’s sons were confident because they knew each other well that none of them had done it. however, the prime minister’s cup was found in the baggage of Benjamin.

Genesis 43:30

Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there.

Joseph could not just send back his only beloved brother. Moreover, Joseph had not yet forgiven his brothers. He knew all of God’s plans and his mind, but he treated brothers with unresolved minds. Most of this chapter filled with Judah’s earnest plea to Joseph. There is a word which mentioned many times. It is ‘father.’ “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.” “I will pay for all the sins of that child.” Judah, who had persuaded his father to give up Benjamin, knelt before Joseph on behalf of all his brothers. And he is willing to take Benjamin’s place as slave.

That is what the Messiah Jesus did for us. It is not just Jacob’s fourth son who is kneeling before the Egyptian prime minister. As a God’s appointed Messiah ancestor, he is a person who shows in advance what the Messiah will come and do. He saw all those who were made in God’s image fell into sin and all were under Satan’s control, knowing that no one was able to save them. He saw his father suffered a heartbreak. He knew that it was the “Atonement,” that satisfy the justice of God and to lead people to God. It was necessary for the Perfect God to overthrow every man’s sins and stand in their place. So, he was willing to take that place. He was willing to stand and die in the place of the sinner we should stand. The place of the servant of sin and now let us enjoy the glory of standing before Heavenly Father.

He proclaimed that we are no longer slaves of sin, but sons of our Heavenly Father.

Genesis 45:3

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” but his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

Because of Judah’s love for his father and his sincere desire to take Benjamin’s place, Joseph could no longer hide himself. Joseph reveals himself and forgives his brothers. Just like Jesus Christ taking our place for us to break through all the blocked wall with God and be in harmony with God. This is why we need Jesus! Our Judah, our servant king, Jesus must come to us and we must receive him to experience this wonderful glory.