

THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING is an expression that means the value, quality, or truth of something must be judged based on direct experience with it – or on its results.

GENESIS 44:1-34....."THE TEST"

HAVE JOSEPH'S BROTHERS CHANGED?

1. He gives them a second _____

"Joseph gave these instructions to his palace manager: 'Fill each of their sacks with as much grain as they can carry, and put each man's money back into his sack. Then put my personal silver cup at the top of the youngest brother's sack, along with the money for his grain.' [vv. 1-2]"

2. To assess their _____

[BROTHERS] "We are your servants and would never do such a thing. Didn't we return the money we found in our sacks? We brought it back all the way from the land of Canaan. Why would we steal silver or gold from your master's house?" [vv. 7-8]"

3. To see if they had _____

[JUDAH] "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." [v. 16]"

WHY THE TEST?

JOSEPH WAS LOOKING FOR A _____ HEART

1. Joseph needed _____ that his brothers had changed

[JUDAH] "And now, my lord, I cannot go back to my father without the boy. Our father's life is bound up in the boy's life. If he sees that the boy is not with us, our father will die." [vv. 30-31]"

2. Because _____ and _____ go hand in hand

[JUDAH] "So please, my lord, let me stay here as a slave instead of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. For how can I return to my father if the boy is not with me? I couldn't bear to see the anguish this would cause my father!" [vv. 33-34]"

"Forgiveness allows people a fresh start, but relationships are built on the basis of people's character." WES WHITE

LIKE JOSEPH, GOD _____ OUR FAITH TO SEE IF IT IS GENUINE

"Sometimes in His kindness God brings us back to the same tests we have failed before. He is giving us the chance to show that we have changed." DR. CRAIG KEENER

1. Tests allow us to _____ our faith

"Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God." MATT 3:8

"If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom." JAS 3:13

2. Tests allow us to _____ our faith

"Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character..." DEUT 8:2

"When your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow." JAS 1:3

"There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world." 1 PET 1:6-7