

**Series:** Joseph: God's Prevailing Goodness

**Sermon:** The Power of Substitution

**Scripture:** Genesis 42-44 (Specifically 43:8-9, 44:30-34)

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Genesis 43:8-9 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> *And Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones.*

<sup>9</sup> *I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.*

Genesis 44:30-34 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup> *"Now therefore, as soon as I come to your servant my father, and the boy is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the boy's life,*

<sup>31</sup> *as soon as he sees that the boy is not with us, he will die, and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol.*

<sup>32</sup> *For your servant became a pledge of safety for the boy to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father all my life.'*

<sup>33</sup> *Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers.*

<sup>34</sup> *For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father."*

The role of Judah in Joseph's story ...

1. To Remind us that God loves substitution

Leviticus 1:10-13 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> *"If his gift for a burnt offering is from the flock, from the sheep or goats, he shall bring a male without blemish,*

<sup>11</sup> *and he shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the Lord, and Aaron's sons the priests shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar.*

<sup>12</sup> *And he shall cut it into pieces, with its head and its fat, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood that is on the fire on the altar,*

<sup>13</sup> *but the entrails and the legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall offer all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the Lord.*

Application:

1) Do you marvel at the One who is your substitute?

2) Do you model his substitution to the world around you?

2 Cor. 2:14-16 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. <sup>15</sup> For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, <sup>16</sup> to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

2. To remind us that God redeems, changes, and uses vile and broken people for His kingdom purposes.

Psalm 32:7 (ESV)

*You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.*