

## GENESIS 44:20-34 MAKE ME WHO I AM TO BE

<sup>20</sup> *And we answered, 'We have an aged father, and there is a young son born to him in his old age. His brother is dead, and he is the only one of his mother's sons left, and his father loves him.'*

<sup>21</sup> *"Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me so I can see him for myself.'* <sup>22</sup> *And we said to my lord, 'The boy cannot leave his father; if he leaves him, his father will die.'* <sup>23</sup> *But you told your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.'* <sup>24</sup> *When we went back to your servant my father, we told him what my lord had said.*

<sup>25</sup> *"Then our father said, 'Go back and buy a little more food.'* <sup>26</sup> *But we said, 'We cannot go down. Only if our youngest brother is with us will we go. We cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'*

<sup>27</sup> *"Your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons. <sup>28</sup> One of them went away from me, and I said, "He has surely been torn to pieces." And I have not seen him since. <sup>29</sup> If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in misery.'*

<sup>30</sup> *"So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy's life, <sup>31</sup> sees that the boy isn't there, he will die. Your servants will bring the gray head of our father down to the grave in sorrow. <sup>32</sup> 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!'*

<sup>33</sup> *"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. <sup>34</sup> 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 upon my father."*

The turn around in attitude among the sons of Jacob is breath taking. Where they agreed to eliminate the favored younger son Joseph, they now are willing to sacrifice themselves to save the youngest son Benjamin. Where they treated their father with contempt by deceiving him about Joseph's fate, they now are devastated by the possibility of his being deeply grieved by the loss of Benjamin. In the brothers, God revealed himself as the ultimate power to radically transform lives.

We all have things about ourselves that are not pleasing to us and short-comings that get in the way of our obedience to God. There are times when we border on despair when we are confronted by our inability to change. While our evaluation of our situation and impotence is accurate, our condition should be welcomed as an opportunity to allow God to work his transforming power in our lives. If God could so powerfully transform Joseph's brothers, who were not even looking to him for transformation, how much more likely is it that God will answer our prayers to be more closely aligned with his will?

**Lord God, you have shared the transforming power of your Word with the world. Take my feeble efforts and my miserable failures and turn them into revelations of your glory. I acknowledge that I am incapable of being the person you have created me to be without your transforming Spirit in my life. As you changed Jacobs sons, change me. Amen.**