

WHEN LOVE MUST BE TOUGH

Genesis 42-45

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(Read 42:1-6)

1. Tough love examines the heart

A. Test #1 Where's their heart?

- The harsh treatment test
- Result: Conviction 42:21-23

B. Test #2 How's their heart?

- The bringing Benjamin test
- Result: Celebration 43:34

C. The #3 What's in their heart?

- The life of Benjamin test
- Result: Contrition 44:13-34

2. True love reveals the heart

(Read 45:1-3)

True love:

A. Embraces the power of the moment 45:1-3

B. Seeks reconciliation, not revenge 45:4-5,7-9, 14-15

"God sent me..." v. 5,7

"not you who sent me here, but God..." v. 8

"God has made me lord of all Egypt..." v. 9

C. Focuses on the future not the past 45:9-24

D. Blesses others 25-28

"the spirit of Jacob their father revived" v. 28