



**Series:** Joseph the Harbinger of Jesus  
**Passage** Genesis 42  
**Title:** Restoring Relationships  
**Speaker:** Pastor David Menard – 11/24/2019

## Discussion Starter

Who is the first person that comes to your mind when you think about a relationship that needs to be restored? How has this sermon enabled you to look at how you might approach this encounter differently?

## Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt (Genesis 42:1-38)

- Read Genesis 42:1-8. In what way do you see Jacob the father of Joseph exercising his faith and his role in the family? Why do you think he was unwilling to send Benjamin?
- What is the prophetic significance of Joseph's ten brother's first encounter with him in Egypt?
- Read Genesis 42:9-17. Why do you think Joseph spoke so roughly with his brothers and accused them of being spies? How did Joseph plan to test them and what would this test prove?
- What was Joseph's original on the spot plan? Why do you think he decided to have all ten of his brothers held in jail for three days before invoking this original plan?
- Read Genesis 42:18-24. After three days passed, notice how Joseph has made some changes to his original plan. Why do you think he did this? What is he revealing about himself and how does this apply to us as we seek to restore relationships in our lives?
- What effect do you think the three days in prison had upon Joseph's ten brother by the way they reacted to Joseph's new plan? What had been triggered in their hearts?
- What do you think triggered Joseph to weep and turn away from his brothers? What do you think he realized and why is that also important to us?
- Read Genesis 42:25-38. What do we see Joseph being compassionate about here in these opening verses? How is this type of compassion applicable to restoring our broken relationship?
- As followers of God how are we to go about the process of reconciliation? Read Romans 5:8-10 and Matthew 6:11-15. Discuss the insights these verses give us on how to go about the reconciliation process.
- How did Joseph's brother and father react to his kindness and his plan of reconciliation?
- How was Joseph's plan a patient plan of reconciliation? Why is it important to have a patient plan when we seek to restore relationships? Read James 1:19-20 and Romans 8:28. What insights and wisdom do these verses impart to us as we go about the process of restoring relationships?