



Series: Joseph – Harbinger of Jesus
Passage Genesis Chapters 43:23 through Chapter 45
Title: Restoring Relationships – Part 2
Speaker: Pastor David Menard– 12/1/2019

Discussion Starter

Review Joseph’s life up to chapter 43. Discuss how the life of Joseph foreshadows the life and character of Jesus to this point in the narrative.

The Brothers Return (Verses 43:23-43:33)

- What do you think the ten returning brothers were thinking as they approached the house of Joseph’s steward? Why did the brothers bring gifts?
- How did the steward treat the returning brothers? Who did the steward say had placed the money in the brothers’ grain sacks? Which of Jesus’ character traits does this model?
- How did Joseph react to the presence of his brother, Benjamin? Why did Joseph react so strongly to seeing Benjamin?
- In what order did Joseph place the brothers at the table? How did his brothers react to this?

Joseph Tests His Brothers (Verses 43:34-44:34)

- What was Joseph’s strategy for testing the character of his brothers? (See verse 34). Which character traits was Joseph testing? What steps did Joseph take to “frame” Benjamin?
- What was the purpose of testing the brothers? (see Luke 16:10-11 and Jeremiah 17:9-10) Joseph was wealthy and desired to bless his brothers and Jesus wants to bless us as well. How is Joseph’s behavior like that of Jesus?
- What blessings/gifts does Jesus offer to us? What gifts is Joseph able to offer? Compare the gifts.
- How are the circumstances in these verses like the circumstances of Joseph’s enslavement? How did the brothers’ respond when accused by Joseph’s steward? How is their response different than their actions when Joseph was enslaved? How did Judah respond to their difficulties?
- What did the brothers’ believe was the cause of their misfortune? (See verse 44:16)

Reconciliation (Chapter 45)

- How is the brothers’ blindness like that of Israel’s inability to recognize Jesus? (See Romans 11:25-27 and Zechariah 12:10). What leadership traits did 1st century Jews expect of the Messiah?
- What purpose did Joseph give for his difficulties? What does Joseph say to his brothers to restore their relationship? (Verse 45:5-8)
- Pastor Dave gave two purpose of wisdom and power? What are they?