

RESTORE: My Relationship with Others

Genesis 45

Introduction:

- A. Relationships have lost their permanence. EX: Marriages, Careers, Friendships, Institutions
- B. Rick Warren said, "Relationships are always worth restoring." (*The Purpose Driven Life*)
- C. The Bible places a great deal of importance on peace and reconciliation (Matt. 5:9).

Joseph Handled the Relationship Privately (v. 1).

- A. If someone has wronged us, the worst thing we can do is make the situation of public nature. There are some exceptions to this (when there has been bodily harm).
- B. The Bible teaches if a brother sins, we should go to him and show him his faults in private first (Matt. 18:15).
- C. We are commanded to look out for the interest of others, even to the point that we regard them as more important than ourselves (Phil. 2:3-4). Joseph could have regarded himself as more important than his brothers. He could have made a spectacle of the whole situation.

Joseph Handled the Relationship Uniquely (vs. 2-4).

- A. He approached his brothers (Matt. 5:23-24).
- B. He wanted to be in close proximity to them. It's easy for us to want to push those who hurt us away, to not have direct contact with them.
- C. He reminded them of the relationship they once shared. "I am your brother, Joseph."

Joseph Handled the Relationship Maturely (vs. 5-8).

- A. Joseph did not attack his brothers for what they had done (Rom. 12:17-18).
- B. Joseph did not blame his brothers for what they had done.
- C. Joseph forgave his brothers for what they had done (vs. 9-11).

Joseph Handled the Relationship Lovingly (vs. 14-15).

- A. He kissed and wept over all his brothers (Eph. 4:1-3).
- B. He and his brothers talked for the first time in 20 years.

Conclusion:

- A. Restoration results in celebration.
- B. The Second Greatest Commandment (Love your neighbor) comes second only to The Greatest Commandment (Love God).