

Sermon Title: New Beginnings – Reunited and it feels so good!

What do you think of when I say the word reunion?

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(family reunion, class reunion, reunion tour)

### Movie Clip

- Short recap of where we've been in Joseph's story

### Genesis 45:1-15

- Quite a scene, tear filled, and probably not what the brothers had in mind if they ever thought they would run into Joseph again.
  - The last time they saw Joseph was after they had thrown him into a pit, ignored his cries for help, and sold him into slavery.
- There are a couple of reasons why this is a loving reunion.
  1. Joseph's brothers had really changed and matured since their last interaction.
    - a. 2 weeks ago we really laid into the brothers and their actions, and rightfully so.
    - b. in today's passage they are:
      - i. Much humbler
      - ii. They don't lie to Joseph when they could have many times
      - iii. They even are trying to do the right thing with Jacob and with Joseph
  2. Joseph had the perspective of God's plan and wasn't just focused on his pain.
    - a. 5 times Joseph says "God sent me" or alludes to it in verses 5-9.
    - b. Joseph has the ability to keep God in the forefront of his mind no matter what is going on in his life.
    - c. When Joseph's brothers show up to get food, he had the perspective of God's plan all along, and he wasn't just sitting in his house or in prison stewing over the fact that his brothers sold him into slavery.
    - d. I believe that this is something that Jacob passed down to his son Joseph.
    - e. Joseph had already forgiven his brothers years before they came to see him.

- Let's talk a little bit about Reconciliation.
  - Reconciliation means to restore peace.
  - That can be between people like Joseph and his brothers, but we also have reconciliation with God.
  - It is the one that was wronged that needs to offer forgiveness and mercy to reconcile.
  - Joseph had to take steps from knowing that the bad things were part of God's plan to forgiveness, and then had to show his brothers mercy.
  - **Luke 23:34**
- **Some tough questions:**
  1. When things are going well, or aren't going your way, are you able to have a godly perspective on them, or do you tend to focus on the wrong done to you or on your pain?
    - a. Can you forgive others before they even ask for forgiveness or do you tend to hold onto a grudge, or seek revenge?
  2. Who in your life do you need to forgive and seek reconciliation with?
    - a. Maybe it's a person, or maybe it's God.
- One more reunion: **Gen 46:29-30**
  - This was a moment Joseph dreamed about for a long time.
  - But this is a different moment for Israel. This is a moment he never thought would happen because he thought Joseph was dead.
- You may have experienced a reunion like this in your life, or maybe you have only seen them in the movies. But for all of us here today that put our faith, hope, and trust in Jesus Christ you will have one of these reunions in the future with your heavenly Father.
  - We should have no fear of this moment.
  - Take a moment this morning and think about this reunion with God. Close your eyes and picture it.
  - Let the eternal reunion with Christ guide your decisions this week. That way it will be easier to have a Godly perspective on the tough things in your life, and it will be easier to reconcile with people showing grace and mercy, because you know God will show you grace and mercy one day through Jesus Christ.

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3. Joseph's brothers had really \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ since their last interaction.
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    - b. in today's passage they are:
      - i. Much humbler
      - ii. They don't lie to Joseph when they could have many times
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  4. Joseph had the perspective of \_\_\_\_\_ and wasn't just focused on his \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a. 5 times Joseph says "God sent me" or alludes to it in verses 5-9.
    - b. Joseph has the ability to keep God in the forefront of his mind no matter what is going on in his life.
    - c. When Joseph's brothers show up to get food, he had the perspective of God's plan all along, and he wasn't just sitting in his house or in prison stewing over the fact that his brothers sold him into slavery.
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  - Reconciliation means to restore peace.
  - That can be between people like Joseph and his brothers, but we also have reconciliation with God.
  - It is the one that was wronged that needs to offer forgiveness and mercy to reconcile.
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  3. When things are going well, or aren't going your way, are you able to have a godly perspective on them, or do you tend to focus on the wrong done to you or on your pain?
    - a. Can you forgive others before they even ask for forgiveness or do you tend to hold onto a grudge, or seek revenge?
  4. Who in your life do you need to \_\_\_\_\_ and seek reconciliation with?
    - a. Maybe it's a person, or maybe it's God.
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- You may have experienced a reunion like this in your life, or maybe you have only seen them in the movies. But for all of us here today that put our faith, hope, and trust in Jesus Christ you will have one of these reunions in the future with your \_\_\_\_\_.
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  - Let the eternal reunion with Christ guide your decisions this week. That way it will be easier to have a Godly perspective on the tough things in your life, and it will be easier to reconcile with people showing grace and mercy, because you know God will show you grace and mercy one day through Jesus Christ.

Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Genesis 45:1-15: Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. <sup>3</sup> And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. <sup>10</sup> You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' <sup>12</sup> And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. <sup>13</sup> You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." <sup>14</sup> Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Luke 23:34 - Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Genesis 46:29-30 - <sup>29</sup> Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. <sup>30</sup> Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive."