

## **Joseph: A Changed Heart The Life of Joseph**

Pastor Tim Allen

### **Key Truth:**

On the road to reconciliation, a changed relationship takes a changed heart.

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In this chapter we see a family that is substantially different from what we saw in Chapter 37. Hatred appears to be gone, and they seem well on their way to reuniting as a Family with Joseph, who is now Governor of Egypt. Throughout our study on the life of Joseph, we have seen God at work to bring about His Plan. In this chapter, we see God working to change the hearts of both Jacob and his ten sons.

### **DISCUSS**

Read **Genesis 43:1-34** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon on “Joseph: a Changed Heart.”

### **DIG IN**

Three ways God was changing hearts:

#### **1. Learning to Let Go** (Genesis 43:1-14)

God changes our heart to let go of anything that gets in the way of His Plan.

When it comes time to send the brothers back down to Egypt to buy food, Jacob is resisted by his sons. Jacob is in a difficult situation: Either send his son Benjamin to Egypt or give up the possibility of purchasing grain. Describe what Judah says when he steps in to help his father (vv. 8-10).

Jacob realizes he is fighting a losing battle, and consents to let Benjamin go. Describe a time in your life when you’ve had to “let go.”

#### **2. Learning to Receive, Humbly** (Genesis 43:15-23)

God changes our heart to receive his Free Gifts with humility.

When the brothers returned to Egypt, Joseph brought them into his house (vv. 17-18). Why do you think the brothers were afraid?

The brothers came prepared to bring Joseph presents and double the money for their grain. However, the steward of Joseph’s house assured them they need not worry, their money has already been received (v. 23). How do you think the brothers would have reacted to this?

#### **3. Learning to Overcome Jealousy** (Genesis 43:24-34)

God changes our heart to enable us to rejoice in someone else’s favor.

When Joseph greets his brothers in his own home, he greets them kindly and inquires about their father’s health (vv. 26-28). He also finds himself overcome by emotion (v. 30). In what ways is this scene different from when he was taken from his brothers 20+ years earlier?

Describe the seating arrangements when they sit down to eat (vv. 31-34), and how that could have fostered more jealousy in the brothers if their hearts had not been changed.

In what ways had the hearts of the brothers changed when they saw Benjamin being favored by Joseph (v. 34)?

### **DO**

The sermon encouraged us to look for the mercy in the plans that God’s has laid out for us. However, we often forget to do this when we’re distracted by our busyness. This week, spend some time studying God’s mercy in the Scriptures and ask Him to help you “let go” of the things that are causing you to stand in the way of His plans.

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