

Joseph's Three Steps Toward Forgiveness
Genesis 45:1-15
Living in a Powder Keg, part 9

- Here is one of the most dramatic and tender moments in the Bible, as Joseph finally reveals himself to his brothers.
- Joseph's three steps toward forgiveness and reconciliation with his brothers can be applied by us to forgive those and seek to restore a relationship who have hurt us or caused us pain.

1. He Confronts His Guilty Brothers, v.1-4

(Twice he says, "I am Joseph.")

- A. Emotionally, v.2: "He wept aloud."
- B. Personally, v.3: "I am Joseph."
- C. Compassionately, v.4: "Come near to me I pray you."

2. He Confronts the Painful Past, v.4,5

v.4: "Whom ye sold"

v.5: "ye sold me hither."

- Joseph confronts them with the specific, grievous offense that caused him so much pain and was the foundation of their deceit. He is not trying to rub it in, but it must be named to be properly "rubbed out."

3. He Confronts the Divine Plan, v.5-8

- Forgiveness is humanly so difficult because of the pain and haunting memories the actions of others have caused us.
- Three times Joseph speaks of God's sovereign hand and purpose in all that happened.

v.5: Ye **sold me** hither; for **God did send me** before you to preserve life

v.7: And **God sent me** before you to preserve you a posterity...

v.8: So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God...

A. This shows a heart full of faith!

B. This shows a pure heart! (Matthew 5:8)