

Sermon Notes



Title: *Joseph's First Encounter With His Brothers
Has Both Pleasure and Pain*

Text: Genesis 42:1-38

Theme: Joseph's encounter with his brothers demonstrates the pleasure and the pain as the LORD reveals the bits and pieces of His plan in our lives. There is pleasure in seeing the progress and the success. There is pain in being confronted with our sin and our guilt.

I. **Joseph's Brothers** _____ to _____
(1-5)

II. **The Brothers** _____ **Joseph But Do Not**
_____ **Him (6-25)**

III. **The Brothers' Return Home Is Not So**
_____ (26-38)

IV. Applications

- A. No _____ of your life lies
_____ of the plan and purpose of God.
- B. The providence of God is such that His
_____ is _____
for every day to lead and guide you though you cannot
see the _____ from the
_____.
- C. God's providential work in your life gives the specific
"bits and pieces" of His will for you
_____ it _____.
- D. The LORD God providentially _____ the
_____ in your life because without
acknowledging and turning from it you cannot be
_____.

To read for next week: Genesis 43:1-34

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. Who initiated the plan that Joseph's brothers should travel to Egypt (v. 1)?
2. Which of Joseph's brothers did not go on the trip? Why (v. 4)?
3. What was Joseph's title and job in Egypt (v. 6a)?
4. When the brothers came to Egypt whom did they approach? How did they approach him (v. 6b)? What did this recall?
5. How did Joseph receive and treat his brothers when they approached him (v. 7)?
6. Did Joseph recognize his brothers? Did they recognize him (v. 8)?
7. Of what did Joseph accuse his brothers? How did they respond (vv. 9-10)?
8. What test did Joseph devise for the brothers to prove they were not spies (vv. 14-16)?
9. How did the brothers react to the test (vv. 21-22)?
10. How did Joseph react when he overheard the brothers' discussion about the reason why this was happening to them (vv. 23-24)?
11. Which brother did Joseph hold in custody until the others returned (v. 24b)?
12. On the trip home to Canaan what caused the brothers to be terribly afraid (vv. 25-28)?
13. How did their father, Jacob, handle the news of what happened to the brothers on their trip to Egypt (vv. 35-36)?
14. Who proposed a way for Jacob to feel confident the brothers could return to Egypt with Benjamin? What did he propose (v. 37)?
15. What was Jacob's response to this proposal (v. 38)?
16. Why do you suppose God does not tell us the specific details of what He wants us to do in life (e.g. what career to have, what person to marry, what school to apply to, etc.)?
17. How would you assess the following statement: "Everything that happens to you is God's will"? What two aspects about God's will would assist in understanding this statement?
18. In what ways do you see the sufficiency of God's grace for facing each day?
19. What pieces of the "puzzle" of your life do you wish God would currently disclose to you through providential events so that you might get a more complete picture of His direction for your life?
20. What providential means did God use to bring you to an understanding of your sinfulness and the need for a Savior?
21. Where does conscience show up in this episode? What role does conscience play in convicting a person of sin? How reliable is a person's conscience and what might be some of its limitations?