

Family Scandals and Scoundrels
Gen 42:6-9

6 Now Joseph was the ruler over the land; he was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. 7 When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly. And he said to them, "Where have you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." 8 But Joseph had recognized his brothers, although they did not recognize him.

Meditation Verse:

Never take your own revenge,
Beloved, but leave room
For the wrath of God.
(Romans 12:19)



- I. Joseph initially sought to **retreat** from his hurts. (Gen 42:6)

Now Joseph was the ruler over the land; he was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

1. Joseph decided to **ignore** Canaan. (41:46)

Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.

2. Joseph decided to **embrace** Egypt. (41:51-52)

Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." He named the second Ephraim, "For," he said, " God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

3. Joseph decided to **defeat** famine. (Gen 41:56)

When the famine was spread over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.

- II. Joseph eventually sought **recompense** for his hurts. (42:7)

When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, ***but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly.***

1. Joseph chose **retaliation** against his brothers. (Gen 42:9)

Joseph remembered the dreams which he had about them, and said to them, ***"You are spies; you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land."***

2. Joseph chose **retribution** against his brothers. (Gen 42:17)

So he ***put them all together in prison*** for three days.

3. Joseph chose **revenge** against his brothers. (Gen 42:21)

Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us."

- III. Joseph ultimately sought **reconciliation** for his hurts. (42:22-24)

Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not tell you, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? ***Now comes the reckoning for his blood.***" They did not know, however, that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them. ***He turned away from them and wept.***

1. Joseph responded by **concealing** his feelings from his family. (43:30)

Joseph hurried out for he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he sought a place to weep; and he entered his chamber and wept there.

2. Joseph responded by **revealing** his feelings for his family. (45:2)

He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard of it.

Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. ***He kissed all his brothers and wept on them,*** and afterward his brothers talked with him. (Gen 45:14-15)

3. Joseph responded by ***healing*** his feelings with his family. (50:17)

'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.'" And now, ***please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.***" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

