

Sermon NOTES



September 27 // Part 7 // Grace Not Vengeance

SUMMARY

What do you do when the past you tried to bury suddenly walks back into the room? In Genesis 42-43, Joseph is confronted by the very brothers who betrayed him, and he must decide whether to use his power for revenge or restoration. Sometimes God brings hidden wounds, guilt, and unresolved pain into the light, not to shame us, but to heal us. Through Joseph's story, we see that grace does not deny the wound, but it does refuse to let the wound have the final word.

SCRIPPS RANCH CAMPUS

Let's go in our Bibles to Genesis 42:3-12 (NLT)

**1. God brings the _____ to the surface to _____
what we buried.**

Genesis 42:8-9 (NLT)

Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn't recognize him. And he remembered the dreams he'd had about them many years before.

Genesis 42:10-11 (NLT)

"No, my lord!" they exclaimed. "Your servants have simply come to buy food. We are all brothers—members of the same family. We are honest men, sir! We are not spies!"

What has God recently brought back into your awareness not to shame you but to heal you?

- A person you have avoided.
- A hurt you keep rehearsing.
- A sin you have renamed, minimized, or buried.
- A relationship that still has power over your emotions.
- A failure that you have never truly brought into the light before God.

Let's read Genesis 42:13-22 (NLT)

2. God uses _____ to bring _____ into the _____.

Genesis 42:21 (NLT)

Speaking among themselves, they said, "Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in this trouble."

John 16:8 (NLT)

And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.

Three Responses to Conviction BUILD

1. Bury it.

We minimize it, excuse it, blame someone else, or pretend it does not matter.

2. Carry it alone.

We live in shame, believing our failure is too great to bring before God.

3. Surrender it to God.

We confess it honestly, receive grace, and take the next faithful step toward repair.

Let's read Genesis 42:23-28; 43:26-34

3. _____ is the power of _____ not _____.

Genesis 42:25 (NLT)

Joseph then ordered his servants to fill the men's sacks with grain, but he also gave secret instructions to return each brother's payment at the top of his sack. He also gave them supplies for their journey home.

Grace does not deny the wound, but it refuses to let the wound become the ruler.

Forgiveness does not mean:

- Saying the evil was not evil.
- Pretending the wound did not matter.
- Immediately restoring trust.
- Removing wise boundaries.
- Returning to an unsafe relationship.
- Refusing to pursue justice where justice is needed.

Genesis 43:34 (NLT)

"So they feasted and drank freely with him."

"The gospel is not that God ignores sin. The gospel is that Jesus bears it, defeats it, and invites sinners to His table."