

From Conflict to Community

Part 4, Genesis 45:1-18

1. In what ways do emotions enrich our lives? In what ways do emotions complicate our lives? What are the most complicating emotions we have to deal with?
2. Read Genesis 45:1-18 – As you listen to the story; write a list all the different emotions of all the different characters
3. Joseph can either choose **revenge**, **running away** or **reaching out** in dealing with his brothers. What emotional state would be influencing Joseph in each of the three options? What will be the impact on Joseph's family of each of the three options? Which option do you think would be the most difficult to pursue?
4. What option does Joseph choose? The Bible doesn't specifically tell us the reason behind Joseph choice, but it does give us a strong indication – why did Joseph decide to reach out to his brothers?
5. In what way does Joseph's story parallel the arrest, trial, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus? What does this tell us about the heart of God and the plans of God?
6. Jesus was in conflict with the religious authorities all throughout his ministry, why do you think that was? What is Jesus saying about the resolution of that conflict in John 8:27-27?
7. Paul, who was originally in conflict with the followers of Jesus teaches that because of Jesus we are not slaves to our emotions or to conflict anymore. Read Galatians 5:13-16. What is the key to our freedom? How does this play out in moving from conflict to community?
8. In the story of Joseph, God is telling us that he knows how difficult working through emotions can become. God knows that it's complicated and he doesn't expect you or me to instantly move from hurt to reconciled, from conflict to community. He knows this is going to take some time but he also wants us to know that He can do the impossible, if only we will trust him. How does this impact your life?