



**Haven Community Church
Pastor Jack D. Cohen – June 27, 2010**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:”
– 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 (TNIV)

Average Joseph: Stuff it in a Sack

I. Cleaning out the sack

- You will have to go back to Egypt

“He continued, “I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.”
– Genesis 42:2 (NIV)

- You will have to face the truth

“They said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come upon us.”
– Genesis 42:21 (NIV)

“What can we say to my lord?” Judah replied. “What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants’ guilt. We are now my lord’s slaves—we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup.”
– Genesis 44:16 (NIV)

- You will have to trust God

“And may God Almighty [a] grant you mercy before the man so that he will let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you. As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved.”
– Genesis 43:14 (NIV)

- Believe God uses everything & let go

“Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” – Genesis 45:4-7 (NIV)

II. Making up is hard to do

- We need reconciliation to God & others

– katallage → change thoroughly

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

– 2 Corinthians 5:17 (TNIV)

Why we need reconciliation?

- We think like this world

“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

– Romans 12:2 (NIV)

– We have all the answers

- We live like the world

“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.”
– 2 Corinthians 5:16 (TNIV)

– We hold grudges & fan conflict

– We are often judgmental

– We are often hardhearted

III. Reconciliation revealed

- Made possible by the desire of God

“All this is from God...”

– 2 Corinthians 5:18a (TNIV)

- Made possible by the acts of forgiveness & obedience

“that God...not counting people’s sins against them.”

– 2 Corinthians 5:19 (TNIV)

- Made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus

“God made him who had no sin to be sin [a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

– 2 Corinthians 5:21 (TNIV)