

## Meditations for your week

What are the challenges today that have affected declining church attendance and a worsening moral culture? How would confession and forgiveness within the church affect how the world responds to us? In what ways have I expected change from the world and not from me?

Like Joseph in Egypt, how do I need to be faithful among people that do not know God? How much of a light of holiness have I been to those around me? How has gentleness and forgiveness fit within my life of holiness? How helpful am I in welcoming someone into God's healing grace?

Like Judah in Genesis, how have I acted faithlessly? How have my decisions injured my relationships with the church and with those outside? What about my attitudes, my words, my relationships, my work, and my behavior do I need to confess? How can I be an example of how to be forgiven?

Who is someone I need to hold on to? How specifically do I need to either confess or forgive in order to restore or maintain that relationship? How can I be an integral part of Blue River's ministry to heal the hurt, welcome the lonely, forgive the sinner, relieve the burdened, and restore the broken?



Sermon Notes  
February 21, 2021

*"My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." —Psalm 51:17*

### Turning Things Around – Genesis 37-50

Two movements are happening in Genesis:

- 1) A cycle of people getting worse
- 2) A narrowing of God's election

Jacob's heritage is between Judah and Joseph.

What is needed to reverse course?

Faithfulness that is restoring

Concern that is repentant

The church today is in need

of the same change of direction.

Gimmicks and strategies cannot replace

hearts that confess and forgive.

## Group Discussion Questions

### Open

What are the differences between situations that are fixed by acting authoritatively, even forcefully, and situations that are fixed by acting humbly, even sacrificially?

### Dig and Reflect

1. Read Genesis 44. Why do you think Joseph messed with his brothers by having the cup put in Benjamin's sack? What is Joseph trying to find out about his brothers or accomplish with his brothers?
2. What are the ways that Judah proves to be a good leader of his brothers? What is Judah's attitude toward his father? What has changed about Judah? What has caused the changes?
3. What about Judah's change needs to happen most in our lives today? How would that change affect the entire church and the world?
4. Whom do you need to learn to protect? To love? To serve? What relationships in your life need to be healed and restored?
5. In a world today of mistrust and division, what is needed from the church in order to bring about healing? What part do you personally need to play in that healing?