Main Thought  In their first journey toward reconciliation, the brothers are disciplined and tested by Joseph (2 Cor. 5:20b).

In Canaan – Facing Jacob (1-5).

- Some 20 years after selling Joseph (13 yrs. a slave plus 7 years of plenty), the brothers prove INDECISIVE with the reality of famine.
- They were HUNGRY (Psa. 107:9; John 6:35; Rom. 12:20) but did not know what to do (2 Ch. 20:12).
- Jacob sends his ten sons to Egypt to buy grain. With Joseph gone, he now favors Benjamin by not sending him.

In Egypt – Facing Joseph (6-26).

- **FIRST AUDIENCE** (6-17). In partial fulfillment of Joseph’s earlier dream, the ten brothers “bow down” to him (37:5-7). Later all 11 brothers would bow completing the fulfillment (43:26, 28; 50:18).
- Joseph immediately recognized them but acted otherwise. His intent was not revenge, but allowing them to reap: (1) harsh words (37:19); (2) false imprisonment (17; 37:23-24). He was also testing them.
- He “remembered his dreams” – all 11, not 10, would bow. He presses for more information. He learns he is presumed dead and Benjamin is alive.
- One is to return to get Benjamin while 9 will remain as hostages. They will have three days in prison to think about it (37:24).
- **SECOND AUDIENCE** (18-26). Now Joseph offers to keep one as prisoner until the nine return with Benjamin. They discuss privately (in HEBREW) their divine punishment as Joseph listens. They CONFESS (21) and express FAITH in God as did Joseph.
- Joseph began to WEEP (3 more times – 43:30; 45:2, 14-15) as did Christ (John 11:33-35) and the father of the prodical son (Luke 15:10).
- Joseph learns it was not Reuben (he assumed – eldest) but Simeon who wanted him dead. He orders Simeon bound. Their bags were filled with grain and their money returned to test their loyalty to Simeon.

In Caanan – Facing Jacob (27-38).

- On the first night one discovers the money as they REAP their sins.
- After reporting all to Jacob and finding all their money returned, Joseph laments in self pity (Jer. 45:3): “Everything is against me!”
- Jacob refuses to risk Benjamin even after Reuben’s lame assurance.

REFLECTIONS

- **SEVERE MERECIES** (famine, harsh words, hostages) reunite a family (Rom. 8:28).
- Joseph’s OMNISCIENCE and POWER (overhearing) are like God (Psa. 139:4)..