"Mending Relationships"
Three (3) Keys
Genesis 44:1-17

Being:

I. **R**espectful - "Is not this in which my lord drinketh" (vs. 1-6)

Appreciating their :

    A. *Treasure* -" my cup, the silver cup"

    B. *Time* -"As soon as the morning was light"

    C. *Talents* -"whereby indeed he divineth"

II. **R**esponsible - "With whomever… it be found" (vs. 7-13)

Acknowledging our:

    A. *Principles* -"God forbid that thy servants...do...this thing"

    B. *Practice* -"Behold, the money...we brought again"

    C. *Pride* –"Then they rent their clothe...and returned to the city"

III. **R**epentant - "how shall we clear ourselves" (vs. 14-17)

Authenticating with:

    A. *Remorse* – "they fell before him on the ground"

    B. *Recognition* – "God hath found out the iniquity"

    C. *Restitution* –"we are my lord's servants, both we and he"

Sentence Sermon:

*"Forgiveness is the needle and humility is the thread
that mends relationships woven by love."*

Additional Verses

- *Genesis 43:18*
- *I Peter 3:8*
- *James 1:19; 3:2, 16, 18*
- *Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17, 20*
- *Titus 3:10*
- *I John 1:9*
- *I Corinthians 1:10-12; 13:1-13*
- *II Corinthians 5:18*
- *Romans 12:12; 15:5-6*
- *Ephesians 4:2, 15, 26-27, 29-30, 32*
- *Proverbs 6:3*
- *Matthew 6:14-15*
- *Proverbs 18:13-19*
- *John 15:13*
- *Psalm 27:14*

Questions to Ponder:

1. What are the key words in this passage?
2. Who is the central character of the passage?
3. How important is the steward to the story? Explain.
4. Why do you suppose Joseph decided to use his cup?
5. How would you define evil in respect to relationships?
6. How would you summarize the boys defense to the steward?
7. Why did they all return to the city instead of just Benjamin?
8. What does the renting of their clothes demonstrate?
9. How would you describe the difference between 43:28 & 44:14?
10. What does Joseph mean by "I can certainly divine?"
11. What is Judah's main concern in verse 16?
12. Does verse 17 epitomize what Joseph was testing? Explain.
13. What are some key issues you've learned in mending relationships?