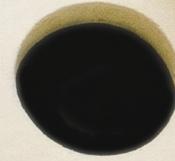


When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense

Granting The Gift Of Forgiveness

SELECTED SCRIPTURE



Introduction: As we approach the end of our series on forgiveness, we are going to discover how we can give away life's most important gift by looking at the life of one of scripture's most fascinating characters.

- I. The Story of Joseph (Genesis 37)
 - A. The Offense

Genesis 37:24 "And they took him and threw him into a pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it."

- B. The Confrontation (Genesis 45:1-10; 50:15-21)

Genesis 45:1-4 "1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried, 'Have everyone go out from me.' So there was no man with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard of it. 3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Please come closer to me.' And they came closer. And he said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.'"

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Genesis 45:4-5, 7-10 “⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Please come closer to me.’ And they came closer. And he said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. ⁸Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰And you shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have.’”

Genesis 50:18 “Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, ‘Behold, we are your servants.’”

Genesis 50:19-21 “¹⁹But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? ²⁰And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. ²¹So therefore, do not be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones.’ So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

II. Principles of True Forgiveness

A. True Forgiveness **Admits** That Someone Has Wronged You.

B. True Forgiveness **Acknowledges** That a Debt Exists.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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- C. True Forgiveness **Releases** Our Offender of Their Obligation.

Genesis 45:10 "And you shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have."

- D. True Forgiveness **Waits** for the **Right Time** to Confront Our Offender.

Genesis 44:1-2, 4-5 "1 Then he commanded his house steward, saying, 'Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack. 2 And put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his money for the grain.' And he did as Joseph had told him. 4 They had just gone out of the city, and were not far off, when Joseph said to his house steward, 'Up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, Why have you repaid evil for good? 5 Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and which he indeed uses for divination? You have done wrong in doing this.'"

Genesis 44:16 "So Judah said, 'What can we say to my lord? What can we speak? And how can we justify ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; behold we are my lord's slaves, both we and the one in whose possession the cup has been found.'"

Genesis 44:33-34 "33 Now, therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. 34 For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest I see the evil that would overtake my father?"

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E. True Forgiveness **Resists** Unnecessary Embarrassment.

Genesis 45:1 "Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried, 'Have everyone go out from me.' So there was no man with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers."

F. True Forgiveness **Relieves** People of Unhealthy Sorrow.

Genesis 45:5 "And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life."

G. True Forgiveness Continually **Releases** Our Offender of Their Obligation.

Genesis 50:21 "'So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.' So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them."

Conclusion