

What Joseph Teaches Us About Forgiveness

Gen. 50:14-21

The Enmity Between Joseph And His Brothers

- Bad reports. (37:2)
- Favoritism of Jacob. (37:3)
- Dreams.(37:5-11)
- The brothers are not good men. (cf. chapters 34,35,38, etc.)
- Joseph is sent to check on his brothers, who conspire to kill him, put him in a pit, then sell him to Midianite traders who take him to Egypt as a slave.
- The words of Judah are significant here. (37:26-27)

Joseph In Egypt

- Joseph is sold to Potiphar. (Gen. 39)
- Resists the temptations of Potiphar's wife.
- Joseph is put into prison where he interprets the dreams of the butler and the baker. (Gen. 40)
- Joseph interprets the dreams of Pharaoh and is made governor of all Egypt at the age of 39. (Gen. 41:46; 42:6)
- There is a famine over all the face of the earth. (Gen. 41:56-57)
- Jacob sends his sons to buy grain. (ch. 42)

Joseph's Treatment Of His Brothers

- The brothers bow themselves before Joseph who recognizes them. (42:6-7)
- Joseph acts like a stranger, speaks harshly, accuses them of being spies, and imprisons them for 3 days. (42:7-17)
- Joseph hears them confess their guilt. (42:21-25) He turns and weeps, and keeps Simeon till they bring Benjamin.
- They return home and tell Jacob what has happened. (42:36)
 - Note the words of Reuben. (42:37)
 - Contrast with the words of Judah. (43:8-9)
- The brothers return the second time...with Benjamin.

The Plea of Judah

- The brothers return with Benjamin. (Ch. 43)
- Joseph sees Benjamin and weeps. (43:29-30)
 - Prepares a meal for them. Seats them in order.
 - Gives Benjamin 5 times as much.
- He sends them home with grain and his silver cup in Benjamin's bag. (44:9)
- Judah speaks and offers himself in the place of Benjamin. (44:16)
 - God has found out our iniquity. (44:16)
 - The plea of Judah in 44:20-34 exposes a changed heart.

The Reunion And Reconciliation

- Joseph's words and actions in 45:1-8; 15
 - I am Joseph your brother.
 - Come near to me.
 - Be not grieved or angry with yourselves
 - God did send me before you to preserve life.
 - He kissed all his brethren and wept and they talked with him. (45:15)

What Joseph Teaches Us About Forgiveness

- Joseph had a heart that was focused on God and not on himself. (Gen. 45:5-8; 50:17-21; Rom. 12:17-21; Matt. 6:14-15; Eph. 4:32)
- Joseph comforted and spoke kindly to his brothers. (Gen. 50:21; 45:5; II Cor. 2:6-11)
- Joseph did good to his brothers. (Gen. 45:10-11; 50:21)