

Jsph 12 – 5 & 5 for Divine Forgiveness - Gen 45:1-15

I want to start by **acknowledging** the teaching of **R.T. Kendall** on the subject of **Forgiveness**

R.T. Kendall is a Preacher *born & raised* in **Kentucky** - but spent his *Preaching Career* at **Westminster Chapel** in **London England**

His teachings on **Total Forgiveness** are **sown** thru **many** of my *forgiveness msg's* - & thru my life

Last week the msg was "**Correct Perspective**" & we said it was the **Crescendo Text** in the life of Joseph

After everything Joseph had **experienced** - after **all** those **yrs** - Joseph **finally** *revealed himself* to his **brothers**

& **he did it** in a way that is **THE Heavenly Example** of **how** we are called to **Live** in **Divine Forgiveness**

Joseph Forgave his brothers

Immediately - Completely - & with No Strings attached it was **Total Unconditional Forgiveness**

& if we call **Jesus Christ** our **LORD** today

then we **MUST** make sure - the *Supernatural Gift* of *Divine Forgiveness* - is **operating** in our lives

Because God's Word is *Overwhelmingly Clear* . . .

We are called to Forgive - **IN THE SAME PROPORTION** that **Jesus Christ** has *forgiven us*

& so **Divine Forgiveness** becomes a **Crucial TEST**
of how **TRULY surrendered** our lives are - to Jesus Christ

If we would stand up & say Proudly with Paul the apostle in Gal 2:20
20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live,
but Christ who lives in me . . .

Then **I would say** - if Jesus Christ is **Truly Living** in me AS **LORD**
then **one** of **THE** most **supernatural evidences** will be - -

Am I living in "Divine Forgiveness" ??

So **today** I'd like to look at the **5 & 5 for Divine Forgiveness**
5 TESTS - 5 STEPS

5 TESTS that you can apply to your life
to see if you have **TOTALLY Forgiven** Someone - &
5 STEPS to take - - if you **FAIL** those **5 TESTS**

Let's Pray

I know this can be a **Very Painful Process**

I know there are **Hurts** in some of our lives that **SEEM TOO BIG**

They seem **TOO BIG** - to simply apply **5 TESTS** & **5 STEPS**
& **BAAM** ! - We're healed

I know - there are **some events** that seem **TOO BIG**
even for God to bring Divine Forgiveness into

But I Promise You;

***There is no offense that cannot be overcome
by God's Divine Forgiveness***

There are **some** that may- **SEEM** *Too Big*
But **I promise** you - they are **NOT** *Too Big for God !*

We've said all along that Joseph is a "type" (picture) of Christ

And **never more so** - than when we study
his Total Forgiveness of his brothers

Joseph here, is a "**Type**" (picture) of **Christ Forgiving US** . . .

& **he is also** an Incredible **Example**
of **HOW** we are called to **Live in Divine Forgiveness**

Now Guys - this **Level of Forgiveness**
can't be *worked up* in the **Flesh**

This Divine Forgiveness is AN Evidence (a Fruit)
of **Jesus Christ** truly being *Lord* of your Life - &
the **Holy Spirit** truly being in *Charge* of your life

So today - as we "**Re-Look**"
at Joseph's **Total Forgiveness** of his brothers

I'd like to use it as a **TEST** (*5 Tests*)
that **we can apply** to our own lives . . .

To see if we have **Truly - TOTALLY - Forgiven**
those in our lives who *have hurt us* (even sinned against us)

So let's **RE-OPEN** that *Crescendo Text* we looked at last week

Remember (from last week) - at the **end of CH 44**

Judah is making that *Impassioned Plea* for **Benjamin** . . .

& then at the beginning of CH 45 - **we see TEST # 1** . . .

TEST # 1

Are you willing to keep the Offense just between those involved ?

Gen 45:1 - ESV

1 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

Joseph sent everyone **out** of the room -

This was **between** Joseph & his brothers

& **Joseph** was about to **RELEASE them** forever of their Offense

So there was **no need** for anyone else to be there

He **didn't want** his brothers to have to **endure**

the **gossip** around the **palace** . . .

"Oh, did you hear what Joseph's brothers did to him ???"

this type of "Gossip" is actually bringing a form of

judgment / **revenge** - upon those who've wronged us . . .

But **TRUE Divine Forgiveness** actually **protects** the person

from having to live **in the shame** of what they've done

Jer 31:34 - ESV

34 . . . For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

God says He will **CHOOSE** to not remember our sin !

& in Divine Forgiveness - we are called to do the same

& THAT - is what Joseph is preparing the way for - right here

TEST # 2

Are you willing to put your Offender AT EASE ??

Gen 45:2-4A - ESV

2 And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

3 And 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 So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near . . .

Remember from the msg last week . . .

In Hebrew - this Phrase "Come near to me"

is an invitation to come intimately close (used even for "to kiss")

Joseph wanted his brothers to come close enough to him to see there was no HATE - no VENGEANCE in his eyes

He wanted them to know by the look on his face that they could be At Ease

Heb 4:16 - NLT

16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

God wants to put us At Ease re: our own sin

& He calls us to put others At Ease re: their offenses toward us

TEST # 3

Are you willing to totally release your Offender from ALL Debt ??

Joseph's incredible **statement of forgiveness**
starts at the end of **V.4**

Gen 45:4B-5 - ESV

4 . . . And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

As **they're looking** into his **tear swollen eyes** - Joseph says;

"I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt . . .

& **then Immediately** - **in the same breath** - he says to them;

"now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here . . .

If we **ever work up** our **own forgiveness** (in the flesh)

it'll **sound** something like this ;

"Well . . . I forgive you . . . but I certainly hope you've learned a good lesson here . . .

I certainly hope you understand the pain your actions have caused"

& we **PILE ON** the ***"I forgive you BUTS"*** !!!

Psa 103:10 - ESV

10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

& **God calls us** to forgive ***"In The Same Way"***
that we've **been forgiven**

Divine Forgiveness is **NOT** *Approving* of or *Excusing* sin
Divine Forgiveness is **NOT** *Denial* (or turning your head) to sin
Divine Forgiveness is **NOT** *Pretending* we're not hurt

Divine Forgiveness **is being aware** of what's been done . . .

& right **in the midst** of that awareness - making a **choice of the will**
to forgive in the same proportion that we have been forgiven

I'm **not saying** it's **EASY** - I'm saying *Christ Living in you*
is your **Power** to forgive - *in the same proportion*
that **He** has forgiven you

TEST # 4 - is the **hardest** one - it's the one that **at times** is
excruciating for me to **even consider** - much less have to **say**

It's the one that can't be done by
Logic - or Understanding - or Human Reasoning

& tho it's # 4 - it's actually the Ultimate Test

& I will tell you - there are areas in my life
that I am still fighting to believe this by faith

TEST # 4

*Are you willing to believe that God was actually AT WORK
In the Midst of this Offense (sin) - FOR GOOD*

At times this seems impossible to even consider
but BY FAITH - we can trust - that IT IS TRUE !

Gen 45:5B-8A - ESV (*Joseph cont'g*)

5 . . . for God sent me before you to preserve life.

*6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and
there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing
nor harvest.*

*7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant
on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.*

8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God . . .

Notice - Joseph says "God sent me . . . to preserve FOR YOU"
& then "to keep alive FOR YOU many survivors"

Not only are these the famous BUT GOD Verses !!

Not only does Joseph see God AT WORK - for GOOD !!

But He sees God AT WORK -

for the GOOD of those who sinned against him . . . !!!

& he reassures them - that it was GOD AT WORK
in the midst of their sin - that landed him in Egypt

& then - **to top it off** - he tells them that **God was AT WORK**
not just for his good - but **for their good**

THAT is understanding - **by faith** -
that God is **AT WORK** - **IN ALL THINGS** !!

There are times when it takes **everything** in me
to **look a person** in the eyes & **tell them this** !!

But I know that God is **AT WORK** - in the Midst of **ALL THINGS**
& I know that His **Plan** & **Purpose** for me **is GOOD**

& **I know** that **Rom 8:28** is **TRUE**

Rom 8:28 - NIV

*28 And we know that **in all things** God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

TEST # 5

*Are you willing to never bring up the offense again;
to the offender
to others
to yourself ??*

I promise you - at this point - this is **FINISHED** for Joseph
it's **over** - **done** - **never** to be brought up again

Look at the way this incredible text ends

Gen 45:9-15 - ESV

9 Hurry 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 tarry.

10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

11 There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’

12 And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

13 You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.”

14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck.

15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him. [NLT = talked freely with him]

This little **ISSUE** - of Joseph's brothers **trying to kill him**
& then **selling him into slavery** . . .

IT'S DONE - FINISHED - NEVER TO BE BROUGHT UP AGAIN
& *it never is brought up again*

& there's **no indication** - **Jacob** ever knew the events
that led up to Joseph being **Prime Minister** of Egypt

In fact - the subject **starts to come up** again just after Jacob's death
& **Joseph squashes it** . . .

Even then he will have **NOTHING** to do with it !!

Joseph has removed this offense as far as the East is from the West

Psa 103:12 - ESV

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

& God calls us to forgive - JUST AS (in the same way)
That He has forgiven us in Christ

OK - Here's a quick review of the 5 TESTS

These are all things we see Joseph do
in his Total Forgiveness of his brothers

TEST # 1

Are you willing to keep the Offense just between those involved ?

TEST # 2

Are you willing to put your Offender at ease ?

TEST # 3

Are you willing to totally release your Offender from ALL Debt ?

TEST # 4

Are you willing to believe that God was actually **AT WORK**
In the Midst of this Offense (sin) - FOR GOOD ?

TEST # 5

Are you willing to never bring up the offense again;
to the offender - to others - to yourself ?

Now - **we said** there were **5 TESTS** - & 5 STEPS
so we better get to the **5 STEPS**

These 5 steps are **taught** in detail
in **the msg** "*Living in Divine Forgiveness*"

& altho **it's part** of the **marriage** study
it's **highly recommended** for everyone

But because they-re taught in detail in that message
& because we're **running out of time** here . . .

I can only give you a **REVIEW** of these
5 Steps to Living in Divine Forgiveness

Now - I don't say this very often . . .
but God **gave me** these steps while I was
eating an **overpriced Omelet** at IHOP with Walt Stoermer

For the full Msg (w/ all the scrip) - you gotta **get the CD**
"Living in Divine Forgiveness"

STEP # 1) Recognize Unforgiveness in your heart

We must begin by **recognizing** Un-Forgiveness in our lives

We've just seen **5 TESTS** to Recognize **whether** we are
Living in Divine Forgiveness - - **or NOT**

Unforgiveness is a sin that "**Grieves the Holy Spirit**"
it **separates us** from **God** & from those in our lives

& we end up feeling "**Tortured**"
Just like the "Unforgiving Servant" in **MAT 18:21ff**

Anger – **Bitterness** – **Resentment** – **Jealousy** – **Envy** –
are ALL **Signs** you must **Recognize** – as **Un-Forgiveness**

STEP # 2) Receive God's Command to forgive (by faith)

Faith is the **opposite** of Feeling
& God is waiting for you **to say** . . .

"I **Receive** your **Command** to **Forgive** just as I've been forgiven"
"I **Believe** your **Word** - & I will **Crucify** my own Self-Will
in order **to Receive** Your command"

If You will **Receive** God's **command to Forgive** (w/o reservation)

THEN - you will begin to **experience** the **supernatural transformation**
of **Divine Forgiveness** in your life

You Must **Receive** God's Command to Forgive (by Faith)

STEP # 3) Repent of your sin (with Godly sorrow)

Un-Forgiveness is a *sin that separates you* from **God**
& gives the Devil a wide-open door to wreak havoc in your life

it is **a sin** that must be **Repented of** – just like any other sin !

& **2Cor 7:10** says

10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted . . .

Godly Sorrow produces

“A change of Mind, Purpose, and Action”

The greatest display of repentance in the Bible – **Psa 51**

If you desire to move toward Divine Forgiveness –
Psa 51 MUST be the prayer of your heart

We must Repent – w/ Godly Sorrow, of our Sin of Un-Forgiveness

4) Replace your hard heart with God's heart (be transformed)

Eze 36:26 - NLT

26 And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.

& at the cross – there was that “Exchange of Hearts”

Jesus Christ took upon Himself our heart of sin
& He gave us His own Heart
(2 Cor 5:21 & Rom Ch 6)

Rom 12:1-2 - explains how this Transformation take place
& **Eph 4:22-24** - explains our role of
Putting off the Old Nature - & Putting On the New Nature

This is the **MASSIVE STEP** - & I can't go thru it all here
so you gotta get the msg - & study it

But God has made a way for us (in Christ)
to have the Attributes of God's Own Heart - & not our own

We must Replace our Hard Heart – with God's heart

& then finally - **STEP # 5** - is the **EASY ONE**

STEP # 5) Repeat - as often as necessary

This is the Secret to LIVING in Divine Forgiveness !!

So - **If you FAILED** in any of the **5 TESTS** of Divine Forgiveness
then here are the **5 STEPS** you must begin to take

- 1) Recognize** Unforgiveness in your heart
 - 2) Receive** God's Command to forgive (*by faith*)
 - 3) Repent** of your sin (*with Godly sorrow*)
 - 4) Replace** your hard heart with God's heart (*be transformed*)
 - 5) Repeat** as often as necessary
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you don't have to be a **slave** to your Unforgiveness

anger, **bitterness**, and **resentment** don't have to destroy your life

**There is no offense that cannot be overcome
by God's Divine Forgiveness**

& you can begin this process - **Right Now**

You can begin to **get Victory**
over the sin of Un-Forgiveness - **Right Now**

God is waiting for you

Let's Pray