



Message 5 – Resting Revenge

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Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21

Beginning with Genesis 42 and continuing to the end of the book, we enter an amazing narrative. It is filled with powerful emotion, tension, and promise. In these chapters we are offered a picture of grace, forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration. In other words, these chapters give us an object lesson of the Gospel.

We will focus our attention on Genesis 45 for it is the moment of truth for Joseph's brother. Joseph's brothers will enter the school of grace. They stand before Joseph deserving and expecting judgment, but they receive mercy and grace instead.

Joseph Demonstrates Key Principles of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not **passive**.

It is an intentional and decisive act.

It is filled with powerful emotions.

Forgiveness acknowledges the **pain** and **loss**.

Joseph had lost 22 years of time with his father and family.

Nowhere in this chapter is his brothers' sin trivialized.

Forgiveness does not seek to minimize sin, but to neutralize it.

Forgiveness is the first step toward **reconciliation**.

Forgiveness means that the offence will no longer be allowed to drive a wedge between the offender and the offended.

Forgiveness takes **ONE**. Reconciliation takes **TWO**.

Forgiveness does not mean that a person will immediately stop hurting, but it does mean that the process of healing has begun.

Joseph Acknowledged God's Providence

Providence is the way in which God works concurrently in all things directing them into **tomorrow**.

Ephesians 1:11, God is the One who makes everything agree with what he decides. GW

Joseph understood there was a **bigger story**.

vv. 5-8, It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. NIV

Seventeen years later, Joseph still believed it.

Genesis 20:19-21, Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You meant it for evil, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Gospel Teaches Us How To Forgive

Ephesians 4:30-23, Do not make God's Holy Spirit have sorrow for the way you live. The Holy Spirit has put a mark on you for the day you will be set free. Let there be no more resentment, no more anger or temper, no more violent self-assertiveness, no more slander and no more malicious remarks, Be kind to each other, be understanding. Be as ready to forgive others as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.