

DETOURS

DETOURS, PART 5: POTHoles OF UNFORGIVENESS

There is something about revenge that is enticing. We love it. Think about our favorite sorties. Don't we like to see the bad guy get what they deserve? Most of our favorite movies or TV shows involve some highly trained loner who is out to right all of the world's injustices. Revenge seems like a good idea, but it never satisfies.

BIG IDEA: **Forgiveness is easier said than done. Do it anyway.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever wanted to pay someone back for hurting you? Have you ever wanted revenge? What stopped you from revenge...assuming that you were stopped?
2. Read Genesis 42:1-17. What would you do if you could pay back the person who betrayed you? What would you do if the person who stabbed you in the back all of those years ago knocked on your door? If given the chance to take revenge and blow up their life like they blew up yours, what would you do?
3. Take some time and read Genesis 42-44 straight through like a story.
4. How do the brothers react to the charge from Joseph that they are "spies." How do they defend themselves? Are they being truthful in their defense? How is their action a fulfillment of one of Joseph's dreams? What were the circumstances that prevented the brothers from returning to Egypt for more provisions? Why was this an issue when taking into account that all the men were all his sons?
5. What are the main points of Jacob's prayer in Gen 43:14? How does his prayer reflect the change in his personality and view of God in his old age?
6. What points do you see in Judah's speech in Gen 44:16ff, that reveal God's work in Judah's heart? How do his actions foreshadow the Lion of the Tribe of Judah? (See Mat 20:28; 1 Tim 2:6; 1 Pet 1:18; Rev 5:9).
7. Why do you think Joseph was testing his brothers? Have you ever been falsely accused of anything? How did you handle it?
8. Have you ever wished you hadn't done something? Would you like to be forgiven?

Moving Forward

On the road of life, there is nothing that will slow down our journey like potholes of unforgiveness. The good news is that we aren't alone in our struggle with unforgiveness. This week, make the intentional choice to forgive. How can we as a group support each other in walking out forgiveness in our every day lives?

Changing Your Mind

"We talk glibly about forgiving others when we have never been injured; when we are injured, we know that it is not possible, apart from God's grace, for one human being to forgive another." - Oswald Chambers