



Sermon Title: From the Pit to the Palace: Joseph's Journey of Forgiveness
Date: 4/30/2023

Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph was a man who was born to his father, Jacob. Jacob loved Joseph more than he loved his other sons. This led to resentment from Joseph's brothers -so much so that they sold him into slavery! Joseph ended up in Egypt, where he became a trusted servant to Potiphar. However, Joseph was thrown in prison due to a false accusation.

While in prison, Joseph interpreted a dream for Pharaoh that a famine was coming upon the land. After this, Pharaoh appointed Joseph as his second-in-command to prepare for the famine. His brothers show up for food, but they didn't recognize Joseph. Joseph could have easily harbored hatred for his brothers. However, he forgives them (**Genesis 45:5-7**).

Big Idea: Embrace forgiveness as the path to a deeper relationship with God.

There are three **steps** for mending broken relationships

1) Acknowledge the hurt

Genesis 45:1-4

As Joseph was about to remind his brothers of what they did, he wanted to ensure that it was only for their ears. Joseph broke down weeping and told them who he really was. He showed that there was no bitterness left in his heart.

It is not always easy to acknowledge the ways we've been hurt. During those times, remember that God is with you through your pain and the process of acknowledging it. (**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**)

2) Realize the power of forgiveness!

Genesis 45:5-7

Joseph shows compassion to his brothers. It doesn't mean that what his brothers did was good, but he did not want them to be grieved or angry with themselves.

Joseph could have looked at them and said, "Get out of here. You have no place here. I'm not helping you." However, what Joseph does realize is the over-arching hand of God at work. (**Genesis 45:7**)

All his sorrow was for a purpose. His hurt was for a purpose. Joseph was a victim of men but was still used for God's glory. When we begin to realize the power of forgiving others, it shows us that GOD is the one ruling over our life, not good or bad men, circumstances, or fate.

As children of God, we're called to forgive others (**Colossians 3:13, Luke 17:3-4**). When we realize the power of forgiveness, it changes us. Not only do we realize the way that God has forgiven us, but the way that we can forgive others for their transgressions against us.

3) Extend the gift of grace

Genesis 45:10-11

Joseph shows affection and love to all his brothers. He doesn't exclude those who were especially cruel to him, but he weeps over all of them. Joseph extends generosity and grace to his brothers. He doesn't just stop at forgiving them and letting them know God's purpose. This was a picture of a loving brother who wanted to restore peace and happiness that had been absent from Jacob's family.

He invited them to stay in Egypt during the famine so Joseph could provide for them. He extended grace and courtesy to them, and all of this opened the door to reconciliation. He forgave them, and they had the chance to be reconciled because of God's greater purpose, accomplished through Joseph's pain.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Why is acknowledging a hurt an essential step in the healing process?**
- **Describe a time when someone forgave you for an offense. How did that impact you?**
- **Should you forgive someone who does not ask for forgiveness? Explain why or why not**
- **Joseph extended grace to his brothers by allowing them to live in the land. How can you extend the gift of grace to those you have forgiven?**