

**Joseph could not forgive what he could not forget.**

**Does forgiving mean forgetting?**

*See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it **many** will be defiled. Hebrews 12:15*

**Unforgiveness is the poison we drink hoping someone else will die.**

**Forgiveness can become more complicated when we run and hide from the truth.**

*Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1:39–40*

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:18*

**Confessing sin is always better than controlling sin.**

**Forgiveness cannot be sidestepped by a simple issue of mercy.**

*And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. Matthew 1:19*

**Forgiveness is divine and cannot be accomplished apart from the work of the Holy Spirit.**

*But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 1:20*

**Forgiveness is non-negotiable in seeing the bigger picture God has for us.**

*She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21*

**Forgiveness is the greatest demonstration that God is with us.**

*Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: Matthew 1:22*

*Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23*

**Forgiveness is the best way to get a good night’s sleep.**

*And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus. Matthew 1:24-25*