

III. Forgiveness is Seen in Kindness Toward The Forgiven (50:21)

- A. "I will provide for you and your children."
 - i. Joseph's forgiveness is not only the absence of evil, but the presence of kindness.

- B. Joseph chose to bear their wrongs, and not shovel them back on them.
 - i. Forgiveness bears the wrong and returns kindness.
 - 1 Peter 2:19-21
 - ii. God turned the cross into glory; He can turn your bearing up others sins into glory also! Live by faith!

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- How might Joseph have interpreted his experiences differently if he had a "Joseph-centered" view of the world?
- How are you tempted to interpret the wrongs done against you in a "me-centered" way? How does Romans 8:28 adjust your interpretation?
- In what ways might you be tempted to live in a way that is more controlled by the wrong that you have suffered, than by God?
- How does Joseph provide a great example of biblical leadership? How does he provide a great example of biblical submission?
- How do we find the balance between needing time to forgive, and trying to respond to offenses in a way that recognizes the truth that God will redeem it for good? Does forgiveness take time? Is time the cure-all?
- Is forgiveness ever something I can demand from those whom I have wronged?

Why Forgiveness is Right When We've Been Wronged

Jerry Cisar — March 28, 2010

Text: Genesis 50:14-21

Introduction: All the Wrongs Done

A. *What if Joseph holds a grudge...*

B. *God redeems what others intend for evil, transforming it into good.*

God redeems even the evil acts of others, and that truth is foundational to forgiveness.

I. Forgiveness is Refusing to Take the Place of God (50:19)

A. "Am I in the place of God?"

NIV Application Commentary: *"It is one thing to recognize the sovereignty of God. It is another thing to keep oneself and one's role in proper perspective. ...Joseph not only has a firm picture of who God is, but he has the equally important understanding of what he himself is not. ...Joseph's use of this rhetorical question reflects his commitment to restraint....Being in a position of power over others is not in and of itself a license to use that power."*

- i. Joseph leaves the righting of wrongs to God.

- 1 Peter 2:22-23

B. Are you in the place of God?

- i. Bitterness and unforgiveness don't interpret life in light of God's redemptive activity.

- **God is intent on turning your past into something glorious!**

II. Forgiveness is Rooted in a God-Centered Interpretation of Wrongs Suffered (50:20)

- A. Joseph's forgiveness is rooted in his God-Centered interpretation of his experience.

- i. Joseph remembered events, not through the grid of self, but through the grid of what God was doing.

B. Genesis 45:3-8

- i. *Forgiveness is not rooted in our ability to forget heinous wrongs.*

- ii. *Forgiveness is rooted in our ability to remember wrongs through the redemptive interpretation of those wrongs.*

Robert Jones (JBC): *"What you actually remember are not the past events per se, but the past events as-you-interpret-them. They are not bare facts, but interpreted facts. As such, they are capable of reinterpretation. Herein lies hope. God can help you put the right interpretation on your past and make your past even a good thing for you."*

- iii. **3x Joseph explains why his brothers need not fear:**

- a) vs. 5b
 - b) vs. 7
 - c) vs. 8

- iv. **Note who the recipients of the good are:** Not Joseph, but his scoundrel brothers!

- **Joseph and his 11 brothers are a picture of the church.**