



- The Story of Joseph is story about love...
  - God's love for his people and how he plans for them



- Jacob's favorite son was his 11th: Joseph
- Jacob frequently demonstrated that bias
- Not surprising that his 10 older brothers didn't like Joseph



- Joseph has a dream of wheat sheafs bowing down to another.



- Tells his brother's that they will bow down to him.





- Has another dream of sun, moon, and 11 stars bowing down to him.



- Tells his brothers again.



- Eventually they decide to kill him.





- Instead they sell him as a slave, where he is taken to Egypt.





- And tell Jacob he is dead.
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- Joseph is sold as a slave to Potiper. Rises to household manager, falsely accused by wife, ends up in Pharaoh's jail.
- Jail, rises to manager of Jail, interprets dreams of baker and cupbearer, interprets Pharaoh's dream
- Rises to second in nation of Egypt and plans saves them from the famine



- The famine is so severe that Jacob sends his 10 oldest sons to Egypt to buy food.





- Joseph is governor of the land.
- Recognizes his brothers, but they don't recognize him.
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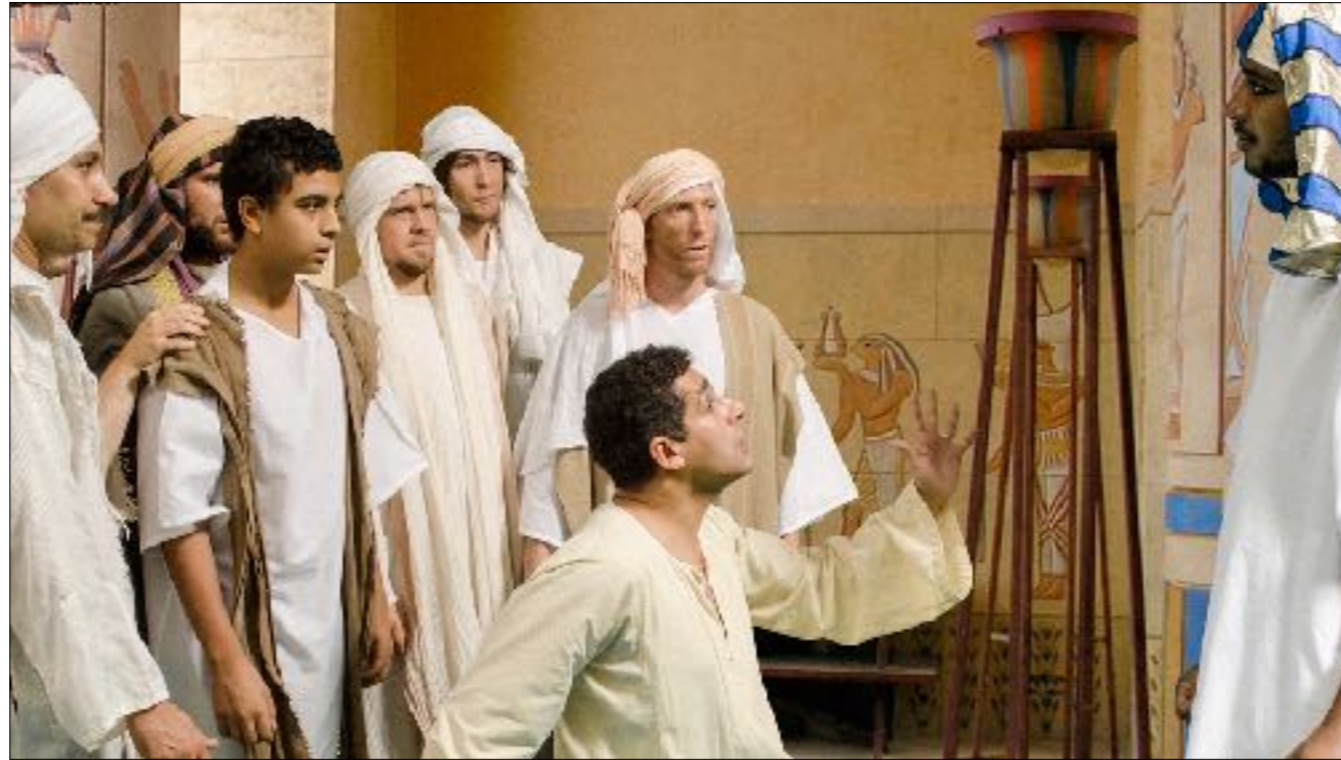


- He treats them as strangers, speaks roughly with them and repeatedly accuses them of being spies.
- Put them in custody for 3 days
- At end of third day, he releases them.
- Genesis 42:21-22: 21 Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.” 22 And Reuben answered them, “Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.”
- Joseph understood what they said and wept.
- Kept Simeon
- Replaced money in their grain bags.



- Famine continues and Jacob sends sons back for more food, including Benjamin

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- Joseph invites all of the brothers to his house.





- Shares a meal with them. Sees Benjamin.
- Compassion grew warm for his brother (Benjamin?) sought a place to weep. Returns after gains control.
- They ate and drank and were merry with him.





- Joseph tells them to put his silver cup in Benjamin's bag of grain, along with replacing all money.
- Joseph sends his men to accuse his brothers of taking the cup and bring them back.
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- Accuses and acts angry and wants to keep Benjamin with him.



- Finally he reveals himself to his brothers
- Brothers are “dismayed at his presence” (45:3)





- 45:5-8: 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.





- 7 And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.



- 45:15: 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.
- 45:24 Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, “Do not quarrel on the way.”



- Family is reunited and settled in Egypt.
- Appears that everything is back to normal.



**17 years later...**

- Genesis 47:27-28 (ESV) 27 Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly.  
28 And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.



- Genesis 50:15-21: When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.'" Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you. And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.**  
**Genesis 50:17**



- “Your father gave this command before he died: ‘Say to Joseph, “Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.”



**Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you. And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.**  
Genesis 50:17



- This seems rather self-serving and convenient.
- If really came from Jacob:
  - Desired that his children have a good relationship
  - (any reflection on his trouble with Esau?)

**Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you. And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.**  
Genesis 50:17



- Expectations of Joseph's brothers about Joseph
  - He still held their evil actions against them
  - He still hated them
  - He was looking for an opportunity for payback
  - He only treated them well because he honored his father, not because he really cared for them.

**Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you. And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.**  
**Genesis 50:17**



- Is this a fair evaluation of Joseph?
  - Joseph was not nice when they first returned to him: speaking harshly, false accusations (spies, money, cup), jail.
  - Compassion for Benjamin
  - Kissed them, wept, talked, merry
  - Provided for their return, land
- Or is this their guilt speaking?



**Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you. And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.**

**Genesis 50:17**



- Did they think Joseph would only forgive them if Jacob asked?
  - Implied that Jacob essentially commanded Joseph to forgive
  - Did Jacob really do this, or was this a lie, or just a way to strengthen their plea?

**Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you. And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.**  
Genesis 50:17



- Joseph had already heard them admit their continued guilt over what they had done.
- Was it still eating at them?
- Forgive....
  - transgression
  - sin
  - did evil
  - TO YOU

**Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you. And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.**

**Genesis 50:17**



- “And now please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father”
- Is this repentance?
  - Is this adequate?
  - No enumeration of specific sins.
  - They admit guilt.
  - They don’t say I’m sorry.
- Fear... Timing
  - Joseph has great power
  - Seeking forgiveness because they fear reprisal? (Yes... see vs. 19)





- How does Joseph respond to their plea?
- Weeping!
  - 17: Joseph wept when they spoke to him.
  - Why?
- Was it just all the bad memories?
- Was it because he's happy that they're finally dealing with their sins? (happy?)



- Was it because they had completely failed to understand his heart and his love for them?
- Forgiveness is so hard!
  - Questioning the motives of the seeker.
  - Questioning the sincerity of the seeker.
  - Questioning the quality of repentance.
- Sometimes we seem to look for reasons NOT to forgive.



- Genesis 50:18: His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.”
- Why did they suddenly come to Joseph and humble themselves to him?
  - Still fear?





- Did Joseph's weeping elicit this response?
  - Did it make it easier for them to sincerely seek forgiveness?
- Is this repentance? At least a better indication of repentance?



- When we forgive we need to make it easier for the one being forgiven
  - When they see that our motive is pure, it makes it easier for them to approach and seek relationship.
  - A forgiving heart does not IMPOSE humility on the offender. ("You will humble yourself!")



- What happens we make forgiveness too hard?
  - Those needing forgiveness hesitate, holding back from fear, reprisal
    - Too many hoops to go through... what's the use?





- 2 Corinthians 2:7-8 (ESV) 7 so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him.



- Demanding the “fruits of repentance” (Matthew 3:4-12)
  - Matthew 3:8 (ESV) Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. (Pharisees coming to John for baptism, fleeing wrath to come)



- You need to show me that you are really sorry for what you've done and you need to show that you've really changed.
  - Demanding a "proper response" (as I conceive it).
  - What fruit of repentance did John seek?
    - confessing of sin?
    - true belief?





- Genesis 50:19-21 (ESV) 19 But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.



- Joseph comforts them and speaks kindly
  - 19 But Joseph said to them, “**Do not fear**, for am I in the place of God?
  - 21 So **do not fear**; I will provide for you and your little ones.”
- Even if someone’s motives are not absolutely “pure” we can still seek reconciliation.



- Sometimes we think that as the “offended one” we should be spoken to kindly. We should receive comfort.
- Forgiveness requires that I make it very clear to the one I am forgiving that I am sincere and that I harbor no ill will at all.
- Change your tone!!!
  - change face
  - accept, receive, welcome.





- Joseph reminds us of being humble!
  - 19 But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for **am I in the place of God?**”
- Too often expect the seeker to humble themselves...
  - we stand in judgment.
  - we are demanding



- Too easy to arrogantly think that I am actually forgiving the sins committed.
  - Luke 5:20-21 (ESV) 20 And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"



- Matthew 18:35 (ESV) So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”





- Joseph reminds us to keep a proper perspective.
  - 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.



- Joseph focused on the good result, not the evil intent.
- We can choose to think that there may be mitigating circumstances
  - that we don't have the whole picture
  - that things worked out for the best anyway.
- This is very hard... especially with "big things"
  - My own sins and failures that my Father has forgiven



- Joseph reminds us to actively help
  - 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.”
- Forgiveness requires more than just saying “I forgive you”
  - They feared reprisal... Joseph promised provision for all.
- Do what you can to demonstrate that your forgiveness is real (not just words).





**Please Forgive.**

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## The Blessedness of Forgiveness

#01

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### Please Forgive

Genesis 50.15-21

Synopsis: Joseph's brothers desire that Joseph forgive them for all the wrong they had done to him. Joseph reminds us that forgiveness requires that we a) comfort & speak kindly; b) be humble; c) keep perspective; and, d) actively help

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**