

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
JANUARY 31, 2024
GENESIS 50:15-21

INTRODUCTION:

1. The death of Jacob renewed the guilt of Joseph's brothers and complicated their relationship.
2. Our text provides an illustration of how we are to behave when sin separates brethren.

I. THE BROTHERS EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN

A. There is Fear.

1. **GENESIS 50.15:** *"Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us"*
2. Three words are used to describe what the brothers did to Joseph.
 - a) Evil (ra): Moral evil and physical disaster. (Gen. 50.15,17,19; Isa. 5.20; 45.7).
 - b) Trespass (pesa): "Rebellion" [Mounce]. (Gen. 50.17)
 - c) Sin (hattat): "To miss the mark" [Vine]. A moral failure. (Gen. 50.17)
3. When we mistreat someone, we are doing the same. (Matt. 5.43,45; 1 Cor. 8.13)

B. There is Forgiveness.

1. **GENESIS 50.17:** *"I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin"*
2. **GENESIS 50.17:** *"Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants"*
3. There is no greater gift than forgiveness. (2 Cor. 2.5-8)
 - a) Command: We are commanded to forgive. (Luke 17.4)
 - b) Condition: There are conditions that must be met. (Luke 17.4)
 - c) Condition: Receiving forgiveness is conditioned on our giving it. (Matt. 18.21,35)

B. There is a Falling Down.

1. **GENESIS 50.18:** *"Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face"*
 - a) "Fell down" translates the Hebrew word meaning "collapse" (cf. Gen. 50.1)
 - b) **GENESIS 50.18:** *"and they said, 'Behold, we are your servants.'"*
 - c) Servants (ebed): Literally, slaves. (cf. Ex. 13.3)
2. **GENESIS 50.17:** *"And Joseph wept when they spoke to him."*

II. JOSEPH EXPRESSED HIS LOVE

A. Revenge: Joseph did not seek revenge.

1. **GENESIS 50.19:** *"Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"*
2. In ancient Egyptian culture, Pharaoh was seen as a god. (Ex. 5.1,2)
3. Taking vengeance is putting ourselves in the place of God. (Rom. 12.17-19)

B. Resentment: Joseph did not resent them for what they did.

1. **GENESIS 50.20:** *"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."*
 - a) Evil: They meant to bring disaster into the life of Joseph.
 - b) Good: God allowed the events to unfold in order to benefit the world.
2. Resentment will impede forgiveness ruin a relationship. (Eph. 4.31,32; Col. 3.19)

C. Reception: Joseph received them as brethren.

1. **GENESIS 50.21:** *"Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them."*
 - a) Comforted: Joseph eased the mind of his brother's grief.
 - b) Spoke kindly: Joseph spoke to them from his heart.
2. Do you go out of your way to let a brother know he is forgiven? (cf. Heb. 8.12)