

## WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

*"Forgiveness"*

**Genesis 50**

### INTRODUCTION:

1. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Only those who can see sin the way God sees sin are willing to sacrifice, to cover it and forgive and be forgiven.
2. **THAT MEANS:** Only those who have experienced forgiveness understand how to forgive.
3. **INTIMACY WITH GOD** and day to day purity of heart is dependent on our forgiveness of others.
  - a) **Matthew 6:12**
4. Our **FORGIVENESS** of others is to be a picture of God's **FORGIVENESS** of us.
  - a) **Matthew 18:22**
    - 1) Means there is no measure of Forgiveness.
  - b) **Ephesians 4:32**
  - c) **Colossians 3:13**
5. **FORGIVENESS** has to do with a **BROKEN RELATIONSHIP**.
6. **GOOD:** There is a price however for our **UNFORGIVENESS**.
  - a) **UNFORGIVENESS** produces hatred, animosity, bitterness, anger and (retribution) which is retaliation.
7. **UNFORGIVENESS** allows anger to rage out of control and negative emotions run unchecked.
  - a) On the other **HAND** - forgiveness **FREES** people from their past.
  - b) **FORGIVENESS** frees the soul, relieves tension, and brings peace and Joy as well as healing to relationships.
8. **QUESTION:** *Does God ever withhold FORGIVENESS?*    **YES**
9. **DEFINITION OF FORGIVENESS:** The Greek word for **FORGIVENESS** means to "**Hurl or send it away**".
  - a) *What do I do if the OFFENDER doesn't ask for forgiveness? What if they act like it's NOTHING?*
  - b) "What do I do with my hurt?"
    - 1) **1 Peter 5:6-8**
      - a) "**cast**" - means to hurl

b) "anxieties" - (KJV cares) means distractions.

- 2) *Micah 7:19*
- 3) *Isaiah 1:18*
- 4) *Psalms 103:12*

10. It is extremely important to understand that the **TRUE FORGIVENESS** God extends to us is **CONDITIONAL**.

a) *Luke 23:33-34*

11. God has done everything possible to facilitate forgiveness.

a) *2 Peter 3:9*

12. Because our **FORGIVENESS** is analogous to God's we are to forgive as we have been forgiven.

a) *Ephesians 4:32*

b) *Mark 11:25-26*

13. Be real careful the standard by which you set for forgiveness.

a) *Matthew 7:1-3*

14. **FORGIVENESS** is an **OBLIGATION** and a **DELIGHT**.

15. *Genesis 49:28-33, 50:1-14*

16. *Genesis 50:15*

1) "evil" - pre-meditated harm. And they knew it.

2) Cf. *Genesis 37:12-14; 18-20*

## TWO THINGS FORGIVENESS INVOLVES

### I. A REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF SIN

1. Vs 19

a) "Do not fear"

2. Vs 20

#### A. HOW TO REPENT

1. But before **FORGIVENESS** can take place, the **OFFENDER** and the **OFFENDED** must have a realistic understanding of sin.

a) If not there can be no repentance and no release of guilt.

## 2. Vs 20

### a) *"you meant evil against me"*

- 1) Your sin against me was pre-meditated, deliberate, and intentional.
- 2) It was pure unadulterated evil.

3. On the other hand I have met people who want to make people squirm who have truly repented.

### a) And that is evil in itself.

## II. A REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S CONTROL

### 1. Vs 20b

#### a) *"but God meant it for good."*

### 2. Cf. Romans 8:28

3. Joseph's life is a realistic appreciation for the sovereignty of God and that things aren't as bad as they seem.

### 4. Vs 20c

#### a) *"to bring it about that many people should be kept alive"*

### 5. Cf 48:8-9

#### a) *"that God has given me here"*

### 6. Genesis 50:21

## A. DON'T PLAY GOD

### 1. Vs 19b

#### a) *"for I am in the place of God."*

### 2. Romans 12:19

## B. GOD'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES

1. Have you ever been at the mercy of a tormentor for an extended period of time?

#### a) Someone who wants to hurt you?

2. That's when we **"Cast our cares upon Him"**

#### a) Vengeance is mine I will repay saith the Lord.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Joseph's forgiveness did not overlook his brothers sin.
  - a) But his willingness to forgive was wrapped up in compassion.

## **2. *Matthew 6:14-15***