

# Total Forgiveness

*Genesis 45*

**Jesus - #1 Character quality**

**Compassion**

**Revealed by His forgiveness**

**70 X 7**

**even as** God for Christ's sake has forgiven us !

We can forgive  
only when we know in our heart -

1. how great a sinner we are

"For God **SO** loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

# We can forgive only when we know in our heart -

1. how great a sinner we are
2. how much we are loved
3. how much we have been forgiven

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, **who gave Himself** for our sins **to rescue us** from the present evil age, **according to the will of our God and Father**, to whom be glory for ever and ever

Gal 1:3-5

**We can forgive  
only when we know in our heart -**

Although I am less than the least of all God's people,  
this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the  
**unsearchable riches of Christ**

Eph 3:8

#### **4. how rich we are as God's child**

Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into  
our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So  
you are no longer a slave, but a son; and **since you are  
a son, God has made you also an heir.**

Gal 4:6-7

# The Angry You

- Rigid
- Impulsive
- Short sighted
  - Doesn't think much about the past unless it's about what is frustrating you
  - Not overly concerned with future outcome
- Wants to be right

**The Normal You** can be shocked by the behavior of  
**The Angry You**

Most Traumatic Stress Disorder comes from things people have done rather than what they saw

# We need to acknowledge our anger

- Anger is justified **IF**:

1. **It is anger against evil and wrong**

**"Be angry but do not sin !"**

2. **Attack the problem with zeal and indignation - aggressive against the problem not against the person**

**Repent of sinful anger where you have either blown up or clammed up - obedience is hard, disobedience is destructive**

### 3. Bitterness is anger gone wrong

Bitterness is holding somebody liable for a sin

Bitterness contradicts God's attitude toward you

"Forgive one another even as God for  
Christ's sake has forgiven you"

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive  
our debtors"

An unforgiving heart is an unforgiven heart



# **Six Ways to know that we have **Totally Forgiven****

*Genesis 45*

# 1. We don't tell anyone

**:1** Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

**We tell because we don't want them to be Liked !**

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Ps 103:12

Fear has punishment. Perfect love casts out fear.

1 John 1:14

## 2. We won't let them be afraid of us

**:4** Then Joseph said to his brothers, Come close to me. When they had done so, he said, I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!

At one time Joseph wanted that more than anything else in the world !

Love keeps no record of wrong

1 Cor 11:5

### 3. You won't let them feel guilty

Joseph set them free

**:5-6** Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

Ever send someone on a guilt trip ?

Ever get sent on a guilt trip ?

*Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

## 4. You let them save face

“You didn’t send me here, God did”

**:5-8** do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. **But God sent me** ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Total forgiveness brings a freedom from  
SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!!

## 5. You protect them from their darkest secret

**:9-13** Now hurry back to my father **and say to him**, **'This is what your son Joseph says**: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. ... I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and all who belong to you will become destitute. You can see ..... that it is really I who am speaking to you. **Tell my father** about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly

# 5. You protect them from their darkest secret

*A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.*

*Proverbs 19:11*

*We can destroy people by revealing their past*

## 6. Keep on living this as long as you live

**50:15-17** When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"

So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.

Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father."



## 6. Keep on living this as long as you live

**50:15-17** When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

When we forgive, we receive peace and freedom.

Then we pick up the offense again and lose it.

We repeat this process until we  
decide that

PEACE is BETTER

# 3 areas that need to come together to have faith

1. **Intellectual** - proofs of logic
2. **Personal** - to see OUR need - that we need something beyond our own power to get through life
3. **Social** - to see that the concepts of Christianity work in real life  
Dad, Mom, Marriage, Church, School, Business ...

# Jephthah

## A **Victim** mentality

- Unforgiveness makes us a prisoner of our emotions

# Joseph

## A **Victor** mentality

- Forgiveness becomes a servant of **our will**

## I then shall live

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven

I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid

I know my name is clear before my Father

I am His child and I am not afraid

So, greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother

The law of love I gladly will obey

*"Be Still My Soul"*

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion  
I've been so loved, that I'll risk loving too  
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges  
I'll dare to see another's point of view  
And when relationships demand commitment  
Then I'll be there to care and follow through



Your Kingdom come around and through and in me  
Your power and glory, let them shine through me  
Your Hallowed Name, O may I bear with honor  
And may Your living Kingdom come in me  
The Bread of Life O may I share with honor  
And may You feed a hungry world through me  
Amen