



TALK IT OVER

The Life of Joseph: Maneuvering Through Life's Unexpected Turns Forgiveness - Genesis 42-45

DT - DOMINANT THOUGHT

Forgive and forget sounds nice and simple, but true reconciliation and restoration are at the heart of biblical forgiveness.

CONVO STARTER

Recall a situation in your life either where you have been hurt deeply by someone else or you have hurt someone else deeply?

Did you forgive them or try to reconcile with them? Are you still harboring any bitterness by withholding forgiveness to others?

CONSIDER THIS

- Forgiveness veiled with forgetting only takes you so far.
- Forgiveness leading to reconciliation should be done cautiously.
- Forgiveness with true restoration reveals God's purposes.

RESOURCES

- [Pikes Peak Christian Church](#)
- [Sermon Video](#)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

- "Are you still holding onto the pain of the past, still consumed with judgment and condemnation for those who have hurt you, or still too stubborn to take the necessary steps toward biblical forgiveness?" -- Mitch Myer
- *For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive your sins, but if you do not forgive others their sins, neither will your Father forgive your sins.* -- Matthew 6:14-15
- "Forgiveness veiled with forgetting is often just the path of least resistance or conflict." -- Mitch Myer
- *If any one of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given to him.* -- James 1:5
- "Even though Joseph is being moved by God toward reconciliation, he didn't emotionally lose control of himself or lay down his cards or become unguarded, he still used discretion by walking carefully through it." -- Mitch Myer
- *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.* -- Genesis 50:19-20
- "What is more important to you: that you feel gratified or justified for your pain or that you release their sin like Christ has released yours?" -- Mitch Myer

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Read Genesis 42. Forgiveness veiled with forgetting only takes you so far. Joseph is now being faced with the pain of his past and this idea of "forgive and forget" was not working when he saw his brothers. This is generally viewed as the easier path (even though it can destroy us from the inside) because it is the path of least resistance. How have you seen this concept of "forgive and forget" be insufficient for real healing or growth? Joseph tried to stuff other things on top of his pain to bury it, what have you tried to stuff on top of your pain that didn't work?

Read Genesis 43-44. Forgiveness leading to reconciliation should be done cautiously. Joseph does not trust his brothers, so he puts them through some tests to see if their character has changed for the better or not. It all comes back to Benjamin and Jacob. He does this carefully and wisely and slowly, so as to not get fooled again or be taken advantage of again. Would you agree with how Joseph did this? What would be a healthy way of working towards reconciliation and what would be an unhealthy way? Think about from both sides: as ones who have been hurt and as ones who have done the hurting.

Read Genesis 45. Forgiveness with true restoration reveals God's purposes. Once Joseph saw the change in his brothers and how God was working behind it all, he was able to fully restore them. What are you waiting for when it comes to forgiving others? How have you seen God's purposes come through in these tough situations regarding forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration? Are you holding onto any roots of bitterness still?

ACTION STEP

Withholding forgiveness puts us at odds with God and directs how we relate to others as well as ourselves. The roots of bitterness can destroy our inner person. Make a list of those you have hurt, so you can reconcile with them. Make a list of those who have hurt you, to move toward forgiveness.