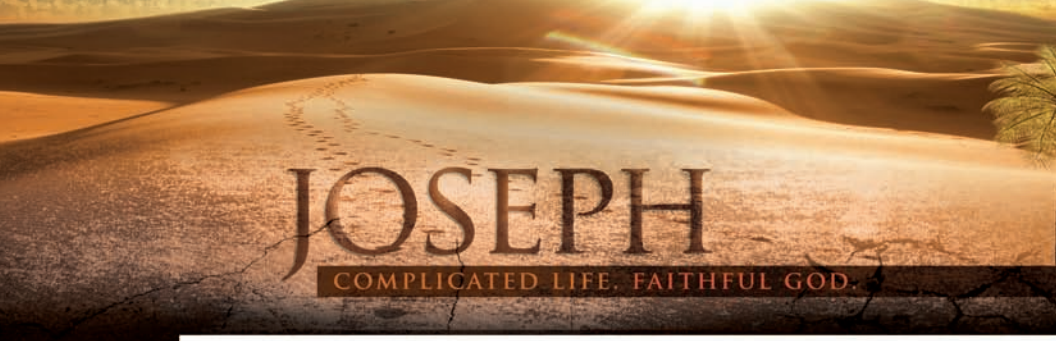


June 27, 2010 • Pastor Gregg Matte

The Process of Forgiveness

Genesis 45:1-11 & 50:15-21 (p. 35)

**"Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea,
until they have something to forgive." - C.S. Lewis**

- Forgiveness – the willful, heartfelt release of a <u>debt</u> someone owes you.

  - Ways we try to collect:
    - Try to please them
    - Try to make them understand; confront
    - Try to convince others
    - Take it out on someone else

    from <u>Boundaries</u> by Townsend/Cloud p. 262

- Forgiveness can be <u>painful</u>. Joseph wept.
  Genesis 42:24, 43:30, 45:14, 50:1, 50:17

- Release comes from <u>Christian</u> <u>thinking</u>.
  God is Sovereign and Faithful.
  Acts 2:23

- Forgiveness is shown in <u>sincere</u> proximity and generosity.
  Proverbs 17:9

- True forgiveness and rebuilding take <u>time</u>.

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FORGIVENESS

Verses

God's command to forgive one another

Matthew 5:23-24, 6:12, 6:14, 6:15, 18:21, 18:27, 18:32 & 18:35, Mark 11:25, Luke 6:37, 11:4 & 17:3-4, 2 Corinthians 2:7 & 2:10, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13

If we desire God's forgiveness, we must forgive others

Matthew 6:15 & 18:35, Mark 11:26, Luke 6:37

Unforgiveness as sin

Romans 1:28-32, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, James 4:17

People seeking/granting forgiveness

Genesis 50:17, Exodus 10:17, 1 Samuel 15:25, 25:28, 2 Corinthians 12:13

Selected cases of forgiveness

Genesis 33:1-4 - Esau forgives Jacob
Genesis 45:1-46:1 - Joseph forgives his brothers
Hosea 1:3-3:6 - Hosea forgives his adulterous wife
Luke 15:11-32 - Parable of a father who forgives his prodigal son

Quotes

"A good marriage is the union of two forgivers." - Ruth Bell Graham

"It is far better to forgive and forget than to resent and remember." - Our Daily Bread

General Oglethorpe once said to John Wesley, "I never forgive and I never forget." To which Wesley replied, "Then, Sir, I hope you never sin."

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." - Lewis B. Smedes

"You will know that forgiveness has begun when you recall those who hurt you and feel the power to wish them well." - Lewis B. Smedes

"Once a woman has forgiven her man, she must not reheat his sins for breakfast." - Marlene Dietrich