

**I. Introduction and review.**

**II. Joseph is reconciled to his brothers. 45:1-28**

- A. Joseph reveals his true identity. v. 1-3 Acts 7:13
- B. Joseph comforts his brothers. v. 3b
  - 1. What must the brothers have been thinking and feeling? v. 3b 50:15
  - 2. Joseph makes every effort to reassure his brothers. v. 4
  - 3. Joseph acknowledges God's hand in all that has happened. v. 5-8 50:20
  - 4. He even encourages them to forgive themselves for what they had done. v. 5
  - 5. God's plan all along has been for the house of Israel to go to Egypt for four hundred years to become a nation there. 15:13-14
  - 6. Joseph offers to generously provide for his family in Egypt. v. 9-11,13 Ruth 4:15
  - 7. Joseph showers loving affection upon his brothers. v. 12,14-15
- C. Pharaoh expands upon Joseph's generosity. v. 16-20 Pr. 21:1
- D. Joseph sends his brothers back to retrieve Jacob and all their clan. v. 21-24
  - 1. His gifts will verify the brothers' report to Jacob. v. 21-23,27b
  - 2. Why does he warn them not to quarrel? v. 24 42:22 Mt. 5:9
- E. Jacob receives the amazing news and is revived. v. 25-28 43:14

**III. Forgive one another as Joseph forgave his brothers and as God has forgiven you. Eph. 4:32 Mt. 6:12,14-15 Ps. 103:10-12**

- A. Forget the offense. Jer. 31:34
  - 1. In what sense does God forget our sins? 41:51 Jer. 31:34 Ps. 103:10-12 Ro. 5
  - 2. Forgiveness involves treating the offender as if the offense had never occurred.
  - 3. Forgiveness includes not bringing it up against them, nor talking about it with others, nor even thinking about it. 41:51 Jer. 31:34 I Co. 13:5
- B. Show love to the offender. 45:10-13 II Co. 2:7-8
  - 1. Never take revenge. 50:18-19 Rom. 12:17-21
  - 2. Take initiative in restoring the relationship.
  - 3. Comfort them in their guilt, fear and grief. 45:3-5 Num. 21:8-9
  - 4. Openly express your affection to them. 45:14-15
  - 5. Rather than expecting them to try to make it up to you, minister to their needs.
- C. What if you don't want to forgive? Mt. 6:14-15 Eph. 4:32 I Co. 10:13 Phil. 4:13
  - 1. Forgiveness is not optional. The Bible commands us to forgive.
  - 2. Sometimes it is very hard to forgive. Forgiveness is granted, not necessarily felt.
  - 3. Those who don't forgive suffer the consequences. Heb. 12:15 I Pe. 3:7
  - 4. God will equip and enable you to forgive and minister grace to those who hurt you.
- D. Trust God, recognizing His sovereign hand is at work when others sin against you. 45:5-8 50:19-21 42:36 Rom. 8:28 11:33 II Cor. 12:7-9 Js. 1:2f Prov. 16:1-4 19:21
  - 1. God is able to use human sin to bring about His good plan. Acts 2:23 Ro. 8:28
  - 2. This does not excuse their sin. Sometimes God punishes those He uses. Is. 10:4f
  - 3. When you are hurt by someone, thank God for the good He is accomplishing.

E. Remember how God has first freely forgiven you. Eph. 4:32 Mt. 6:12,14-15 18:21f  
Titus 3:5-7 Col. 3:12-13 Luke 7:40f

F. What should you do if your brother is not repentant? Mt. 18:15f Gal. 6:1f

1. There is a sense in which forgiveness and reconciliation cannot fully take place if the other party is not repentant.
2. If the other person says they are repentant, assume the best. Mt. 18:21-22
3. You may need to graciously confront the one who has wronged you. Mt. 18
4. Sometimes it is impossible to bring about reconciliation. Mt. 18:17-18 Rom. 12:18
5. You never have license to be bitter. Always be ready to forgive.

#### IV. How does this passage point to Christ?

A. God predetermined that Jesus, like Joseph, must suffer that he might save His people.

John 18:11 Acts 2:23 4:28 13:27

1. God's plan of salvation requires sacrifice. Acts 7:9-10 John 3:14
2. God determined beforehand that He would suffer through wicked hands and so save the world. Acts 2:23 4:28 Isa. 53:10
3. The Father's beloved son is sent to His wicked brethren who reject him.
4. Jesus, like Joseph, accepted the Father's will concerning His suffering. Jo. 18:11
5. He has accomplished a great deliverance bringing reconciliation. 45:7
6. One day those who rejected Him will bow and weep. Zec. 12:10 Jo. 19:37 Ro. 11 Phil. 2:9-11 Re. 1:7 20:11-15

B. Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers beautifully portrays Christ's forgiveness of us.

1. He does not count our sins against us.
2. He receives and embraces us. Luke 15:20
3. He not only forgives us, but enriches us. II Co. 8:9 II Pe. 1:2-3 Ro. 8:32 II Co. 8:9
4. He invites us to draw near unto Him. 45:4 Mt. 11:28-30
5. He gladly receives all who humble themselves before Him. Js. 4:6 I Pe. 5:5

C. Other parallels.

1. Like Joseph, Jesus knew His brothers before they knew Him. Is. 1:3 John 1:10-11
2. God's Son finds refuge in Egypt. Mt. 2:15 Hos. 11:1 Ex. 4:22
3. As Joseph's family gained favor in Pharaoh's eyes because of his relationship to Joseph, we find favor in God's eyes because of Christ. Phil. 3:9
4. Like Jacob, who thought the news about Joseph was too good to be true, some doubt the gospel of grace because it seems too good to be true.

#### V. Concluding applications.

##### Discussion questions

1. What was God's purpose in bringing the house of Israel to Egypt?
2. How does Joseph illustrate the principle that forgiving involves forgetting?
3. What promises do you make when you forgive someone?
4. What does Joseph do to show his brothers that he has truly forgiven them?
5. What should you do to help those who seek your forgiveness?
6. What should you do if you don't feel like forgiving someone?
7. How was Joseph able to forgive his brothers?
8. How does Christ help us to forgive others?
9. Should you forgive someone who is not repentant?
10. How does Joseph's story help the victim of abuse?
11. How does Genesis 45 point to Christ?