

“Faithful In Forgiveness”

Joseph - Part 5

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“and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.”
Matthew 6:12 (NIV)

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”
Mark 11:25 (NIV)

Joseph’s Put His Family Through a Series of Tests:

1. The test of adversity.

“You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected.”
Genesis 42:9 (NIV)

“But they replied, ‘Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more.’” Genesis 42:13 (NIV)

“They said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that’s why this distress has come on us.” Reuben replied, “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn’t listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.” They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter. He turned away from them and began to weep, but then came back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.” Genesis 42:21-24 (NIV)

2. The test of prosperity.

“At this, they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.” Genesis 44:13 (NIV)

“Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.” Genesis 45:1-2 (NIV)

“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! And now, 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.” Genesis 45:4-5 (NIV)

“Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.”
Genesis 45:14-15 (NIV)

3 Steps of Forgiveness:

1. Forgiveness releases my right to retaliate forever.

“Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”
Romans 12:19 (NIV)

2. I will do my part to restore the relationship.

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:17-18 (NIV)

3. I acknowledge the sovereignty of God, even in this terrible situation.

“And now, 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.” Genesis 45:5 (NIV)

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
Romans 8:28 (NIV)