

November 6, 2016

Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. Genesis 45:1–3 (ESV)

So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt." Genesis 45:4–8 (ESV)

Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him. Genesis 45:9–15 (ESV)

What does biblical forgiveness NOT look like?

1. Biblical forgiveness is not overlooking a minor offense.

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.
Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)

2. Biblical forgiveness does not mean forgetting what happened.

...For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Jeremiah 31:34 (ESV)

3. Biblical forgiveness does not necessarily mean escaping consequences.

4. Biblical forgiveness does not necessarily mean immediate restoration of trust.

5. Biblical forgiveness does not mean letting someone repeatedly hurt you.

What does biblical forgiveness look like?

1. **Biblical forgiveness is refusing to seek revenge or be consumed by past injustices.**

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:17–21 (ESV)

- A. Forgiveness is choosing to not seek revenge.
- B. Forgiveness is doing everything we can to live at peace with everyone.
- C. Forgiveness is leaving revenge n God's hands.

2. **Biblical forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling.**

3. **Biblical forgiveness is willing to let go of a hurt because we know that no matter what was done to us, it can not frustrate God's plans for us.**



Genesis 45:1-15

Forgiveness