



THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

NEVER

ABANDONED

100%
=
CERTAINTY?

it's rare, but there are some exceptions

FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION

are 2 different things

can be one-sided

(the offended
can absorb the
pain and forgive)

is two-sided

(a process
conditioned on
the attitude and
actions of the
offender and
offended)

GENESIS 42:1-2

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you just keep looking at each other?” ² He continued, “I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.”

GENESIS 42:3-4

³ Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. ⁴ But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.

GENESIS 42:6-7

⁶ Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. ⁷ As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food."

GENESIS 42:8-9

⁸ Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

⁹ Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected.”



THE GOALS OF JOSEPH:

- to see his brother Benjamin and father Jacob
- to know if his brothers have changed and reconciliation is possible

GENESIS 43:1-2

Now the famine was still severe in the land.² So when they had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, “Go back and buy us a little more food.”

GENESIS 43:3-5

³ But Judah said to him, “The man warned us solemnly, ‘You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.’ ⁴ If you will send our brother along with us, we will go down and buy food for you. ⁵ But if you will not send him, we will not go down, because the man said to us, ‘You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.’”

GENESIS 43:33-34

³³ The men had been seated before him in the order of their ages, from the firstborn to the youngest; and they looked at each other in astonishment. ³⁴ When portions were served to them from Joseph's table, Benjamin's portion was five times as much as anyone else's. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

GENESIS 44:14-15

¹⁴ Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in, and they threw themselves to the ground before him. ¹⁵ Joseph said to them, “What is this you have done? Don’t you know that a man like me can find things out by divination?”

GENESIS 44:16

¹⁶ “What can we say to my lord?”

Judah replied, “What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants’ guilt. We are now my lord’s slaves—we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup.”

GENESIS 44:17-18

¹⁷ But Joseph said, “Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace.”

¹⁸ Then Judah went up to him and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, let me speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself.

GENESIS 44:33-34

³³ “Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. ³⁴ How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come on my father.”

GENESIS 45:1-2

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.² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

GENESIS 45:3

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

© 2013

GENESIS 45:4-5

⁴ 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! ⁵ 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 45:6-7

⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

GENESIS 45:8-9

⁸ "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.'

GENESIS 45:14-15

¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

OFFENDER

1. Acknowledge the wrong
2. Demonstrate change

OFFENDED

**1. Acknowledge the wrong
done to you**

**2. Acknowledge and accept
the demonstrated change**

MOTIVATION

to offer

RECONCILIATION

**God can use
the offense
for good**

How might God use the offense for good?

Joseph: immature & arrogant ➡
humbly used by God

Brothers: hateful & jealous ➡
self-giving

salvation of this family ➡
salvation through Jesus

MOTIVATION

to offer

RECONCILIATION

**the self-sacrifice
of another**