

The Reunion

October 16, 2011

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Genesis 45:1-15

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The Unveiling

- Brothers have repented & shown their new heart
- Joseph can no longer hold back his public forgiveness
- Reconciliation is only possible by repentance

The Lessons

- The Key to being Forgiving and Willing to Reconcile is Your Attitude
 - Think about it: do grouchy people good relationships? Generally not!
 - In earthly terms, Joseph had a 'right' to be bitter, but he saw God's hand!
 - Reconciliation starts with the Offended's Attitude > Rm 12:17-18
 - When you are offended you have a choice to make regarding your attitude!
 - Circumstances don't make people bitter, their choices make a person bitter - Heb 12:12-15 (note greater context of trouble and discipline)
 - To Biblically forgive a person:
 - You choose to pay for the pain inflicted and absorb the loss caused by the other person while they go free, even if they don't deserve it!
 - Proof: Parable of Unforgiving Servant (Mt 18:21ff; Rm 3:25; 5:8)
 - We are called to forgive as we have been forgiven: Mt 6:12; 18:35; Col 3:13)
 - Our Strength: Focus on your forgiveness - Parable of Tax Collector Lk 18:9-14
- The Key to your Attitude is entrusting Yourself to the Sovereign God
 - God must be the CENTER of your life, not just a part 45:5,7,8
 - Joseph's example: Gen 39:9; 40:8; 41:15-16; 41:25, 28,32; 41:51,52; 42:18, etc.
- Learn to Trust God as ordaining every event of your life, whether good or seemingly bad
 - Joseph often was doing 'right' when 'bad' things happened to him
 - His attitude was not affected – he understood God's hand
 - Consider Paul's circumstances in Eph 3:1; Philemon 1:1
 - Entrust yourself to God's sovereignty: Eph 1:11; Rom 8:28
 - Can you say, "I believe God is ordaining this in my life?"
- Learn to give Thanks and Entrust Yourself to God's Sovereignty in every event in your life
 - Not fatalism or chance
 - We are responsible for OUR actions and GOD is sovereign over all events and uses them to refine and shape us for His purposes.
 - What about their attitude? There can only be true reconciliation when all trust Christ and His sovereignty.
 - God often uses our gracious, forgiving spirit to draw others
 - Pay attention to your attitude before God, not theirs

- When harmed: Manifest your forgiving, loving spirit – first non-verbally and then at the proper time, verbally
 - Joseph was ready to forgive long before brothers repented
 - God is our example: Rm 5:8. He made provision for our sin before we repented
 - We are commanded to forgive as we have been forgiven: Mt 18:35; Eph 4:32
 - How Can I do this???
 - Forgive them in your heart 1st (pay for their sin, don't wait to extract payment for sin)
 - Extend grace & love. Pray earnestly for them (don't pray for God to get even for you, but for them to be reconciled to God and you)
 - Look for opportunities to shower with kindness and tenderheartedness (Lk 6:35)
 - Remember God uses kindness to draw us (Rom 2:4)
- As God grants you opportunity, help others see things from God's perspective
 - Joseph continually pointed his brothers to show them how God was working
 - Meditate often on 1 Peter 3:13-17 when suffering.
 - Remember the purpose for which you were saved: 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Ask Yourself:

- How can I forgive when I don't feel like forgiving someone?
- Could you explain how we forgive in our hearts first, but delay the act of extending forgiveness verbally until there is evidences of repentance? How do you answer this biblically?
- It is being hypocritical if you do something kind for someone who has wronged you even when you don't feel like being loving towards them?
- Is there someone in your life that you have failed to extend forgiveness to? What is God calling you to do? Outline a biblical plan, get a brother or sister to hold you accountable.