

Finding Forgiveness!!!

Ephesians 4:32

I) Picture that Explains

Gen 37-50

A. Plan it Details

Gen 42:7-9

7 And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.

8 And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.

9 And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them.....

Gen 50:19-21

19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. (meant-(chashab) to weave, braid, fabricate)

21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

Jer 29:11

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

B. Power it Displays

God took everything that came against Joseph and brought him closer to his destiny

Rom 8:28-29

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

II) Pardon that Expects

Matthew 18:21-35

A. Recognition of Forgiveness Received

Matt 18:32

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

B. Readiness to Forgive Repeatedly

Matt 18:21-22

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Matt 18:33

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

III) **Presence that Encourages**

Acts 7:54-60

A. Awareness Seen (looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God)

Heb 4:15

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

B. Active Support (Standing)

Mark 16:19

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Luke 22:69

69 Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

Heb 1:3

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Heb 8:1

8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Heb 10:12

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Heb 12:2

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Acts 7:54-60

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Small Group Questions

1. Read Ephesians 4:32 and Col 3:13 and discuss this question “Is forgiveness a suggestion or a command”?
2. If we fail to forgive others including ourselves is that a sin?
3. Give some reasons why forgiving someone is hard to do sometimes.
4. Now go over the reasons listed after number three and compare them with what you heard Sunday and see how they compare with the truth that you know now.
5. When you see that God uses circumstances that come into our lives to change us and form us into what he wants us to be, does it make it a little easier to see people as tools in God’s hands instead of weapons in the devils?
6. Talk about some ways that you can look for Gods handiwork in the situation that you are dealing with where forgiveness is necessary? Is God giving you a chance to let others see Christ in you?
7. Read Ephesians 4:32 and Col 3:13 and give the reason that God says we should forgive one another.
8. When we put ourselves in the soldier’s shoes that crucified Christ, what has anybody ever done to us that was as bad as what we did to Christ, because it was our sins that put him there?
9. The last time God commanded you to forgive someone did you remember the great debt that you owed that he forgave?
10. Do you realize that you are the most like Christ and according to Stephen and his experience the closest to Christ when you are needing to and offering forgiveness?

Memory Verse

Eph 4:32

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.