

# Forgive Us Our Trespasses As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us

October 1, 2017 – Genesis 50:18-21

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***“His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. We are your slaves, they said. But Joseph said to them, Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children. And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.”***

Every time we say the Lord’s Prayer we say: And Forgive Us our Trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Do you have any brothers or sisters or both? What if they sold you into slavery? Or maybe you do not have brothers or sisters, what if your parents sold you into slavery, or your Aunts and Uncles? How would you feel?

Imagine what the 17 (Gen. 37:2) year old Joseph must have been saying to his brothers as they pulled him out of a cistern that they threw him into and instead of killing him, they sold him into slavery? Would Joseph have been crying, and begging. ‘Oh please, do not do this to me. Why are you doing this?’ Or would he have been saying how sorry he was for telling them about the two dreams that he had? Or would he have been threatening them, “I will get you for this!” Scripture does not tell us what Joseph said, if anything.

Joseph was one son of 12. His father Jacob loved Joseph so much that he showed favoritism and gave Joseph a coat of many colors. (Perhaps you can remember coloring a picture of Joseph in his coat of many colors?) The fact that Joseph was favored by his father Jacob, caused jealousy among the brothers. Also since Joseph had two dreams, one in which the sheaves of grain of the brothers were bowing down to his sheave of grain, and the second dream where the Sun and Moon and 11 stars were bowing down to Joseph, these things caused the brothers to not only be jealous but to despise Joseph. It was their disregard for their brother Joseph that led them to sell Joseph into slavery.

After Joseph was sold by his brothers, he ended up as a slave in Egypt. During that time Joseph first ended up being thrown in prison, because he was wrongly accused by the wife of Potiphar. (Gen. Ch. 39) She saw that Joseph was handsome and well built and wanted Joseph to come to bed with her. But Joseph refused. His refusal caused the wife to turn the story around and she accused Joseph of making advances at her. This resulted in Joseph being thrown into prison.

But even in prison, Joseph was faithful in his duties. In short order the warden of the prison put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners. (Gen. Ch. 39) While in prison Joseph interpreted the dreams of two prisoners. The Cup Bearer (Restored to his position) and the Baker (put to death by hanging).

After some time, the Pharaoh of Egypt had two dreams, and no one could interpret those dreams. It was then that the Cup Bearer remembered that Joseph could interpret Dreams by the hand of God. So the Pharaoh called for Joseph and God gave Joseph the interpretations. 7 Fat cows and 7 lean cows. The Lean cows ate the fat cows. 7 full heads of grain and 7 lean heads of grain which also ate the full heads of grain. From Scripture we know that these dreams were God’s way of telling Pharaoh through Joseph that there would be 7 years of Good crops followed by 7 years of famine.

Joseph was then put in charge of storing of the grain during the 7 good years and then distributing the stored grain during the 7 years of famine. Joseph was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in charge in all of Egypt, and was given an Egyptian wife named Asenath. And Joseph had his name changed to an Egyptian name = Zaphenath- Paneah.

As the famine progressed, it came to pass that the family of Jacob (back in the land of Canaan) and the brothers of Joseph needed food and went to Egypt, because they had learned that there was food in Egypt. So the brothers were sent by their father to Egypt to get food. The person that the brothers needed to see for food was Joseph. Only they did not know it was Joseph when they met him. Joseph had aged and taken on the Egyptian customs and learned the Egyptian language. It was not until the second trip to Egypt for food that Joseph made himself known and invited the family to Egypt to live.

The family of Jacob moved to Egypt, but after the father died, the brothers were afraid that their little brother Joseph, now 2<sup>nd</sup> in command in Egypt, would get revenge for the cruelty that they had done.

**What would you have done?**

We hear what Joseph did and said: **Vs. 19 – But Joseph said to them, Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?**

**Vs. 20 – You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.**

**Vs. 21 – So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children. And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.**

What else does Joseph say?

**Vs. 20 – You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.**

God used Joseph to save the lives of people from starvation. God also used Joseph to provide a place for the family of Jacob to live and flourish, because from the line of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, from the tribe of Judah, the Savior of the World would come.

That Savior is of course Jesus the Christ Who is True God and True Man, Who came to earth to live the perfect life that we cannot live, to die and suffer hell for us, and to rise victorious from the grave so that we too will one day be raised from the dead and live forever in heaven with God our Savior.

Joseph also spoke kind words to his brothers when they came filled with fear.

Have you forgiven everyone who in your mind, has wronged you, just as God has forgiven you?

Even when we fail in our full and complete forgiveness, God's forgiveness for you is still full & complete.

Your forgiveness is FINISHED, just as Jesus said on the cross of Calvary. AMEN