

# FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION GEN. 37:1-5,18-36; 41:50-52

## We begin with the story: Joseph was the....

**Genesis 37:1** And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. **Genesis 37:2** These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, **being seventeen years old**, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

**Genesis 40:14** But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house: **Genesis 40:15** For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

**Genesis 40:23** Yet did **not** the chief butler remember Joseph, **but** forgot him.

**Genesis 41:1** And it came to pass **at the end of two full years**, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.

## Discoveries:

### 1. Forgiveness does not equal reconciliation!

I am beginning with my conclusion!

Forgiveness does not equal reconciliation, forgiveness is connected to reconciliation, & forgiveness normally leads to reconciliation but does not equal reconciliation!

### 2. Forgiveness precedes / comes before reconciliation!

**Genesis 41:50** And unto Joseph were born two sons **before** the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Poti-pherah priest of On bare unto him. **Genesis 41:51** And Joseph called the name of the firstborn **Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.** **Genesis 41:52** And the name of the second called he **Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.**

**Genesis 41:53** And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, **were ended.** **Genesis 41:54** And the seven years of dearth **began to come**, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

## This is true:

- Logically
- Historically

Joseph forgave his brother long before he saw his brothers!

- Emotionally

### 3. Forgiveness requires two → you and God!

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## **This can be cute and religious – until you consider the pain over time!**

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**Genesis 41:1** And it came to pass **at the end of two full years**, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.

**Genesis 41:46** And Joseph was **thirty years old** when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

**Genesis 41:50** And unto Joseph were born two sons **before** the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Poti-pherah priest of On bare unto him.

**Genesis 41:53** And the **seven years of plenteousness**, that was in the land of Egypt, were **ended**. **Genesis 41:54** And the **seven years of dearth began to come**, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

**Joseph is clear:**  
**God made me forget!**  
**God made me fruitful!**

**Genesis 39:1** And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. **Genesis 39:2** And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. **Genesis 39:3** And his master saw that **the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.**

**Genesis 39:5** And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, **that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.**

**Genesis 39:21** **But the LORD was with Joseph**, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

**Genesis 39:23** The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; **because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.**

**Genesis 40:8** And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, **Do not interpretations belong to God?** tell me them, I pray you.

**Genesis 41:16** And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: **God shall give** Pharaoh an answer of peace.

**Genesis 41:25** And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: **God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do.**

**Genesis 41:28** This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What **God** is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

**Genesis 41:37** And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

**Genesis 41:38** And Pharaoh said unto his servants, **Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?**

We are reading about a young man who:

- Despite 13 years
- Despite ups and mostly downs
- Despite betrayal by brothers and Potiphar's wife
- Despite being forgotten

He was God –centered!

**Psalm 103:19** The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; And his kingdom ruleth over all.

**Psalm 115:3** **But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.**

**Psalm 135:6** **Whatsoever** the LORD pleased, That did he in heaven, and in earth, In the seas, and all deep places.

**Ephesians 1:11** In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated **according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:**

**Ephesians 3:11** According to the **eternal purpose** which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

#### **4. Reconciliation requires at least three plus change!**

- You
- God
- He / she / they
- And change...repentance...proof → some sort of indicators of change

Genesis 42-44 contains a series of very strange episodes – indecipherable to most people. However, once they are understood these 3 chapters help us immensely

**Genesis 44:32** For thy servant became surety for the lad unto my father, saying, **If** I bring him not unto thee, then I shall bear the blame to my father for ever. **Genesis 44:33** Now **therefore**, I pray thee, let thy servant abide instead of the lad