

When You've Been Wronged

Genesis 50:15-21

Introduction:

- A. Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me (Psa. 41:9). Jesus quoted this when speaking of his friend Judas (Jn. 13:18).
- B. The people we are closest to can be the very people who wound us the deepest.
- C. What do you do when you have been wronged by those you love? How do you respond?

Joseph Understood the Pain of Being Hurt By Those He Loved

- A. Joseph was thrown into an empty pit by his brothers (Gen. 37:23-24) and eventually sold to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver (Gen. 37:28).
- B. It would be a little over 20 years later before Joseph saw his brothers again when they traveled to Egypt to buy food (Gen. 42:1-5).
- C. When Joseph first revealed himself to his brothers he wept over and kissed them (Gen. 45:14-15).

What Joseph Teaches Us About Being Wronged (Gen. 50:15-21)

- A. Forgive those who have wronged you.
 - 1. Joseph wept when his brothers spoke to him. Why would Joseph weep?
 - 2. When people hurt us, we must remember that bitterness and unforgiveness are not options for those who follow Jesus (Matt. 6:14-15; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13).
- B. Do not look to get even.
 - 1. Joseph told his brothers to not fear (vs. 19, 21). He could have decided to be bitter toward his brothers and to make them pay for the evil done to him.
 - 2. When people hurt us, we must refrain from looking to get even (Rom. 12:17-19; I Pet. 3:9).
- C. Respond with kindness.
 - 1. Joseph didn't have to do anything for his brothers but he choose to respond in kindness (v. 21).
 - 2. God doesn't just say, "Don't seek revenge," He also calls us to look for ways to do good (Rom. 12:20-21; Lk. 6:27-36).

Conclusion:

- A. When people hurt us may we respond to them like Joseph responded to his brothers.
- B. We are never more like Jesus than when we are willing to forgive (Lk. 23:34; Gal. 2:20).