

## **Be Forgiving**

And be ye kind, one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32)

Gen 37:3,4 Joseph's brothers hated him.

v.5-8 They hated him more because of his dream.

v.9-11 They envied him because of his second dream.

v.13,14 Joseph was sent to see how his brothers were going.

v.18 His brothers wanted to kill him.

v.21-24 Joseph was thrown into a pit.

v.25-28 Joseph's brothers sold him to the Midianites who went to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh as a slave...but God was with Joseph (See Gen 39:3,4)

Joseph ended up in prison for something he did not do...but God was with Joseph (See Gen 39:21)

In Gen 40,41, God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams. He ended up interpreting Pharaoh's dreams and giving him good advice about a famine that was coming.

Gen 41:39-44 Pharaoh promoted Joseph to become second in charge over Egypt.

The famine came just as Joseph predicted. Joseph had wisely planned for this and people around found out that Egypt had food. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to get food. Joseph was in a position where he could do anything he liked to his brothers to pay them back for the evil they did to him...but what did he do?

Gen 45:3-15 Joseph was pleased to see his brothers and wanted to show them kindness.

After Joseph's father died, Joseph's brothers were scared that he would now pay them back. Did he?

Gen 50:17-21 shows that Joseph forgave his brothers. V.21 says that he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

What is forgiveness? It is not wanting to pay someone back or continually be angry about what they did. It is being kind to them and loving them. It is realising that God allowed them to do what they did and that God can use that that 'bad' thing in your life for good.

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. (Rom 8:28)

It is realising how much Christ forgave us and being thankful for the opportunity we have to follow His example and forgive others.

Joseph's life is a picture of what Christ has done for us.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins: (Col 1:14)

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. (Col 3:13)