

Moving the Chains toward Gratitude: Tackle Resentment

Genesis 50:12-22

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Genesis 50:12-22: So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them: ¹³ They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite. ¹⁴ After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, together with his brothers and all the others who had gone with him to bury his father. ¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. ²² Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father's family. He lived a hundred and ten years. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ thankfulness with resentment

_____ relationships: Joseph was 17 years old...he ratted out his brothers to their father.... Since their father loved him more than any of them, his brothers hated him.... His brothers were jealous of him....
Genesis 37:2-3, 11 (JOT)

_____ focused: After the funeral, Joseph's brothers talked among themselves: "What if Joseph is carrying a grudge and decides to pay us back for all the wrong we did him?"

Genesis 50:15 (MSG)

2. _____ the momentum of gratitude

_____ : The brothers said to Joseph, "Our father urged upon his death-bed, 'Forgive your brothers of the wrongs and sins they have done! They have done evil...now receive them...Joseph wept as they spoke."
Genesis 50:17 (JOT)

_____ through grace: Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord"....Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
Romans 12:19,21 (ESV)

_____ providence: Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

Genesis 50:21(NLT)

3. _____ the power of giving thanks

_____ with grace: "Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity."
Luke 6:38 (MSG)

Spiritual Action Step:

Has resentment become your "go to" response to life? Are you simmering in anger and frustration? Do you struggle to find joy in giving to others? Jesus said: "*Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.*" (Matthew 5:7 (ESV)) Accept God's mercy through Jesus Christ! You cannot completely tackle resentment without receiving God's mercy and forgiveness in your life. Jesus is our "mercy seat" which enables God to forgive us and set us free. Allow the love of God in Christ to lift the burden of resentment from your heart. This week, read Luke 6 and Romans 12 to empower the Holy Spirit to give you grace and strength.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message; ESV: English Standard Version; NLT: New Living Translation