



SERMON NOTES

June 15, 2014

Scripture: Genesis 50:15-26 (NAS)

Topic: "Unmerited Forgiveness"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!"
- 16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying,
- 17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.
- 18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."
- 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?
- 20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.
- 21 "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.
- 22 Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.
- 23 Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees.
- 24 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob."
- 25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here."
- 26 So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

III. JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE

- A. He Recognized God's Sovereignty *Ephesians 1:11; Romans 8:28*
- B. He Recognized God As The Rightful Judge *Romans 12:18, 19*
- C. He Had A Humble Attitude Before God
- D. He Did Not Question God's Wisdom
- E. His Forgiveness Recognized The Wrong But Did Not Hold It Against Them
- F. Forgiveness When Given Displays God's Grace

I. THE STRUGGLE WITH FORGIVENESS *Ephesians 4:32*

- A. It Increases In Proportion To Our Heart
- B. You Want The Offender To Feel Your Pain
- C. You Want Them To Hurt Enough That They Will Not Do It Again

II. THE ABSENCE OF FORGIVENESS

- A. It Breaks God's Law *Matthew 22:37, 39*
- B. It Hurts Others *Hebrews 12:15*