





WELCOME!

If you are visiting with us

**PLEASE FILL OUT
THE VISITORS SECTION
IN YOUR BULLETIN
AND DROP IT
IN THE OFFERING PLATE**

S e r m o n N o t e s

*“Joseph Forgives
His Brothers”*



I. Our words about Joseph.

A. Choices

B. Flee

C. Serve

D. Love

E. Forgive

II. Learning from Joseph.

Genesis 37-50

A. He resisted sexual temptation.
Genesis 39 (Choices), (Flee)

B. He served God even when
falsely accused.
Genesis 39-40 (Serve)

C. He kept a God-focus while in
prison. **Genesis 40** (Serve)

- D. He trusted in the sovereignty of God. **Genesis 50:20** (Love)

- E. He was honest with his emotions. **Genesis 42:24; 43:30; 45:1, 14-15; 50:17**

- F. He forgave those who hurt him. **Genesis 50:16-20** (Forgive)

III. What Is Forgiveness?

A. Forgiveness is a dismissing of a debt.

In the New Testament the Greek noun aphasis, denotes a “dismissal” or “release.”

B. When you grant forgiveness, you dismiss the debt owed to you.

C. When you receive forgiveness, your debt is dismissed. (You are released from any requirement for repayment.)

D. When you grant forgiveness, you dismiss the debt from your thoughts.

E. Jesus expressed the heart of forgiveness when He said, “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.” *Luke 6:27.*

F. Forgiveness is dismissing your demand that others owe you something, especially when.

1. They fail to meet your expectations.

2. They fail to keep a promise.

3. They fail to treat you justly.

4. Jesus said, “If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also”

(Matthew 5:39).

IV. What Forgiveness Is Not.

Misconceptions abound when the word forgiveness is spoken. Some think forgiveness is the equivalent of excusing sin . . . saying that what was wrong is now okay. Yet when Jesus encountered the mob of men eager to stone a woman caught in adultery, while He chose not to stone her, never did He excuse her. Instead, He said, “Go and sin no more” (**John 8:11, KJV**). To help correct the confusion, you need to know what forgiveness is not!

**A. Forgiveness is not waiting for
“time to heal all wounds” . . .**

- **Time does not heal wounds—
some people will not allow
healing.**

B. Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation . . .

- **Reconciliation requires two people, forgiveness only one.**

**C. Forgiveness is not explaining
away the hurt . . .**

- **But rather is working through the
hurt.**

D. Forgiveness is not based on what is fair . . .

- **It was not “fair” for Jesus to hang on the cross—but He did.**

E. Forgiveness is not being a weak martyr . . .

- **But rather is being strong enough to be Christ like.**

F. Forgiveness is not denying the hurt . . .

- **But rather is feeling the hurt and releasing it.**

G. Forgiveness is not being a doormat . . .

- **That would make God the greatest doormat of all!**

H. Forgiveness is not conditional . . .

- **But unconditional, a mandate from God for everyone.**

I. Forgiveness is not forgetting . . .

- **To forgive you must remember.**

J. Forgiveness is not a feeling . . .

- **It is an act of the will.**

V. “Is it possible to sin beyond
God’s ability to forgive?” No.

1 John 1:9