

**NO, YOU CAN'T**

Genesis 50:15-18

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**You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.**

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**I. Sin's Brokenness Runs Deeper than you Know vv. 15-18**

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**You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.**

- I. Sin's Brokenness Runs Deeper than you Know vv. 15-18**
  - A. You Can't Do What You Want To Do. v. 15**

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**Justice runs deeper than justifications.**  
**Injustice cries to be made right.**

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**Guardrails for Seeking Justice**

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- 1. Watch the small stuff.**

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**BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,**  
**Ephesians 4:26**

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**Ephesians 4:26**

How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! 2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! **3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.**

**Psalm 32:1-5**

# NO, YOU CAN'T

## GENESIS 50:15-18

How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! 2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! **3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. Psalm 32:1-5**

Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. **3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. 4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.**

**Psalm 51:1-4**

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**So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”**

**Genesis 27:41**

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**“We do great injustice to a true Christian, if we think him no better than other men. Though there is indeed flesh as well as spirit within him, yet he has learnt to render to no man evil for evil.” Bush**

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**He said to David, “You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. 18 “You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the LORD delivered me into your hand and yet you did not kill me. 19 “For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safely? May the LORD therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done to me this day.**

**1 Samuel 24:17-19**

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**“But, by such perverse judgement, they do a great injury to one who, by the liberality of his treatment, had borne them witness that his mind was free from all hatred and malevolence. Part of the injurious surmise reflected even upon God, whose special grace had shone forth in the moderation of Joseph. Hence, however, we gather, that guilty consciences are so disturbed by blind and unreasonable fears, that they stumble in broad day-light.”**

**John Calvin**

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**“Do not judge so that you will not be judged. 2 “For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.**

**Matthew 7:1-2**

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**Guardrails for Seeking Justice**

- 1. Watch the small stuff.**
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- 3. Have a clear path back.**

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**WATCH confusion between seeking justice and seeking reconciliation.**

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**who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**  
**1 Timothy 2:4**

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**with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.**

**2 Timothy 2:25-26**

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**2 Timothy 2:25-26**

**Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**

**Galatians 6:1-3**

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**“We fear men so much, because we fear God so little. One fear cures another. When man’s terror scares you, turn your thoughts to the wrath of God.”**

**William Gurnall, A Puritan Golden Treasury**

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**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

**Romans 1:18**

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**Romans 1:18**

**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.**

**Romans 3:23-27**

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For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. **8** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, **we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.**

**Romans 5:6-9**

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**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?**

**Romans 8:31-32**

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“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 “When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. **25 “But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made.** 26 “So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, ‘**Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.**’ 27 “And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. 28 “But **that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’** 29 “So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, ‘**Have patience with me and I will repay you.**’ 30 “But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 31 **“So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved** and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. 32 “Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 ‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ 34 **“And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.** 35 **“My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”** Matthew 18:23–35

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**“He who dares to face his Maker will not tremble before the sons of men.”**

**C H Spurgeon, Treasury of David Ps. 4:1**

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**“The “fear of man” goes by other names. When we are in our teens, it is called “peer pressure.” When we are older, it is called “people-pleasing.” Recently, it has been called “codependency.” With these labels in mind, we can spot the fear of man everywhere.” p. 14**

**“1. We fear people because they can expose and humiliate us. 2. We fear people because they can reject, ridicule, or despise us. 3. We fear people because they can attack, oppress, or threaten us. These three reasons have one thing in common: they see people as “bigger” (that is, more powerful and significant) than God, and, out of the fear that creates in us, we give other people the power and right to tell us what to feel, think, and do.” p. 23.**

**Ed Welch *When People Are Big and God is Small***

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**“If the gaze of man awakens fear in us, how much more so the gaze of God. If we feel exposed by people, we will feel devastated before God. To even think of such things is too overwhelming. Our hearts tremble at the thought, and we do everything we can to avoid it. One way to avoid God’s eyes is to live as if fear of other people is our deepest problem – they are big, not God.” p. 33**

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Failure to “draw nigh to God sincerely and with all [your] heart” will leave you **“compelled to stand before the judgment-seat of mortal man.”**

The only right response then is to return to favor with God. **“Whosoever shall despise this remedy, shall be afraid not only of man, but also of a shadow, or a breath of wind.”**

**John Calvin**

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**You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You. There is a Remedy, and it is both Personal and Transcendent.**

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**Fruits of a Transcendent and Personal Remedy in God:**

- 1. Humility to see that there is more**

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**Fruits of a Transcendent and Personal Remedy in God:**

- 1. Humility to see that there is more.**
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- 2. Patience to wait for final justice**
- 3. Freedom to praise God for glimpses of faithful love from others**
- 4. Confident hope in true gospel-driven change**

## No, You Can't

Genesis 50:15-18, Sunday AM, August 21, 2022

**Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 50:1-18** Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him. <sup>2</sup> Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. <sup>3</sup> Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days. <sup>4</sup> When the days of mourning for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your sight, please speak to Pharaoh, saying, <sup>5</sup> 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am about to die; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me.'" Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.'" <sup>6</sup> Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear." <sup>7</sup> So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household and all the elders of the land of Egypt, <sup>8</sup> and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and his father's household; they left only their little ones and their flocks and their herds in the land of Goshen. <sup>9</sup> There also went up with him both chariots and horsemen; and it was a very great company. <sup>10</sup> When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days mourning for his father. <sup>11</sup> Now when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians." Therefore it was named Abel-mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan. <sup>12</sup> Thus his sons did for him as he had charged them: <sup>13</sup> for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field for a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. <sup>14</sup> After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. <sup>15</sup> 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?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, <sup>17</sup> '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. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

Genesis ends with a large focus on death. The last three chapters anticipates the death of Jacob, and we ended last year with probably the grandest mourning and burial passage in Scripture. And now, it is done. We move on with life. But do you? Or do you die when those around you die? Egypt was known for its culture of death. We spent a bunch of time last year looking at some of their beliefs about a busy afterlife which they must prepare for and help along so their honored ones would have a good afterlife. But where should the Christian look concerning life for the living after those close to us die? We must look to the promise of the nearness of God. This is not merely a wish or warm feeling. This nearness is only good and life-giving if we look to THE MAN, Christ Jesus. This is the gospel Paul has felt privilege to spread regardless of the division it caused. As we approach a dark aftermath to death in our passage today, consider what this song means to live each day.

### \*Hymn #116: Take the Name of Jesus with You

The darkness we confront today is only indirectly tied to Jacob's death. Old fears that lay dormant tied to old sins that were thought to be put to rest spring to life. Guilt, shame, the harsh sentence of justice—all these stir and leave tormented souls, bringing more tension and brokenness to relationships that seemed to have been flourishing. Where do you go with all this? The Christian runs to Christ. Why? Because this is the only way to be saved from the wrath of God, to be saved from death—that no matter what the earthly consequences for our actions, there is eternal fellowship with God promised. Sing these truths as a reminder and as worship.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): I Run to Christ

### \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D

**Scripture: Jeremiah 17:1-18** The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus; With a diamond point it is engraved upon the tablet of their heart And on the horns of their altars. <sup>2</sup> As they remember their children, So they *remember* their altars and their Asherim By green trees on the high hills. <sup>3</sup> O mountain of Mine in the countryside, I will give over your wealth and all your treasures for booty, Your high places for sin throughout your borders. <sup>4</sup> And you will, even of yourself, let go of your inheritance That I gave you; And I will make you serve your enemies In the land which you do not know; For you have kindled a fire in My anger Which will burn forever. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup> "For he will be like a bush in the desert And will not see when prosperity comes, But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, A land of salt without inhabitant. <sup>7</sup> "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup> "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, That extends its roots by a stream And will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought Nor cease to yield fruit. <sup>9</sup> "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds. <sup>11</sup> "As a partridge that hatches eggs which it has not laid, So is he who makes a fortune, but unjustly; In the midst of his days it will forsake him, And in the end he will be a fool." <sup>12</sup> A glorious throne on high from the beginning Is the place of our sanctuary. <sup>13</sup> O LORD, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You will be put to shame. Those who turn away on earth will be written down, Because they have forsaken the fountain of living water, even the LORD. <sup>14</sup> Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed; Save me and I will be saved, For You are my praise. <sup>15</sup> Look, they keep saying to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come now!" <sup>16</sup> But as for me, I have not hurried away from *being* a shepherd after You, Nor have I longed for the woeful day; You Yourself know that the utterance of my lips Was in Your presence. <sup>17</sup> Do not be a terror to me; You are my refuge in the day of disaster. <sup>18</sup> Let those who persecute me be put to shame, but as for me, let me not be put to shame; Let them be dismayed, but let me not be dismayed. Bring on them a day of disaster, And crush them with twofold destruction!

### Offering: \*Doxology:

Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength. Sobering words. But we don't trust mankind, so we are okay. Yes, but next phrase defines trust in mankind as the one "whose heart turns away from the Lord." This includes ANYTHING but looking to God—for what? Life. The one cursed in our passage is like a stony wasteland, a land of salt w/o inhabitant. Turn to God! Yes, I know—I have God and they don't, so I'm right. NO, turn to Him for life—the one who trusts the Lord will be like a tree planted by the water, WILL NOT FEAR when the heat comes, will NOT be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit. I want this—careful—the heart is more deceitful than all else, desperately sick. So I can never have good heart? TRUST the Lord b/c He searches the heart and the one with a right heart will show corresponding right actions. What do your words, actions show? Don't over analyze, just turn back to the Lord—communion—remember Wednesday night? Fellowship determines mission. You stay with Him, and there will be a way forward that is livable—that will bring His fruit!

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): With Simple Faith

How does this live? His promises speak to your fears and cause you to look higher (to Him) and farther (to their final fruition). With your fears addressed, you can be faithful to obey the rest of His commands, living on display before the world showing that He is life and His love is more than enough.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): All Through the Day

### Message: No, You Can't Genesis 50:15-18

You can't! You must, you will, but the remedy is not with you. Too many variables with you, with them. Must look outside of you to the One who can. God is able—not to do what you want, not to give you what you think you need, but to be a rock, fortress, deliverer, compassionate friend, faithful guide to those who come to Him through Christ. You were saved NOT to give you the good life you imagine or even what you deem a livable life, but to give you reconciliation w God and an eternal promised undeserved inheritance that WILL NOT PERISH, reserved in heaven for you. Fellowship with God is what you really need.

### \*Hymn #202 (Red): In Times Like These

### \*Prayer

## No, You Can't

Genesis 50:15-18 CBC, Sunday AM, August 21, 2022

Intro: (sound on) So you all know about this, led to this (3), he approves, but not done, led to this, then this, then this (video), then this, now, can tell story—beginning--pain, unknowns, how long, right help, encouragement as path forward, more questions w end of bones knocked off, growth plates, more progress, convinced that on right path as some resolution/fears dealt w; then next batch of issues, how much should cost us/Christian sharing program--Bills over 8,500 so far after \$1800 self-pay discount & more to come; but healing allowing us to take these/future issues that might arise as they come; O yes, thank God! I guess He is the healer, was over all of it; when is it news, and when does it hit home? personal, affects us OR something relate to; last year, began sermon w Afghanistan, individuals left behind—February, Ukrainians preparing for war, escalated, all w covid, inflation, refugee situation in background; when personal? Read emails from Tima; how do you fix these people/situations? Bones seems easier; but while little more complicated, can get spirited discussions w path forward; when is it fixed? Time heals everything? (lady said Andrew would heal much faster than I would); who pay for all of it; who build all buildings/roads/water lines/electricity; but what about all people—dead, displaced—communities, relationships; read heart-breaking article about orphans World 3/26/22 (some 100,000 in system—adoptions on hold, Russia won't allow US if win); what about Russian soldiers told to destroy people they consider relatives and friends—how do you fix that? Time, counseling—but what happens if you've done that, and still haze/turmoil—read article on counseling about when done all you can/right stuff, still no change—why continue? And so we come to the end of our time with Joseph, indeed, the end of the book of Genesis. These last three chapters heavy; from 47:29-end, death main topic—Jacob's death longest recorded besides Moses; first called Joseph, made promise would bury in Canaan w fathers, then Joseph comes w Ephraim & Manassah, reversed blessing, Joseph granted Shechem which took from Amorite by sword/bow 48:22, then ALL sons come—what words about each & their descendants! one more time, 49:29-33; then most recent sermon, concluded w great mourning—we looked at Egyptian customs—70 days, what procession as came to Canaan—everyone saw Joseph lifted up, father honored; NOW after 3 sermons focusing on death, it's done; how should all these process death of one so central to all of them? Since old, it's okay—can move on? remember, Egypt had culture of death—so intricate in their focus of the afterlife; heaviness continues today indirectly related to death; today, FOCUS on heaviness—this part is dark, steals hope; b/c of this, want to make this a 2 part sermon, not because I tend to go on and on, but because this is NOT to be where Christians center; Christians are people who are intricate in their focus of life b/c they are born again—have life of God in them with eyes fixed on God of life; while some of this will leak into sermon, today, will look on our subject FROM BELOW—our side; want you to see the darkness and transient nature of life dependent on ANYTHING created; how should we respond to what we unpack today? Where should we focus? For today, the first part of our main thought . . . You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You. why? b/c

### A. Sin's Brokenness Runs Deeper than you Know vv. 15-18

It's been a rough couple of months, weeks, days--Approaching death/death itself draining—yes, relationally, but upsets normal schedule—eating, sleeping, thoughts (nostalgia, to practical)—draining when things not predictable; long trip to bury father (time, money, care for animals); but now, w return to some regularity, face other effects of death on relationships; practically—one less means having less at table (big deal for us (this week, from 10 to 2, now back to 8) food, laundry, but also dynamics change--who gets time, who takes charge, who arbitrates—even when long gone from parent's house, parents often are glue for family (know what going on, who understands dynamics of family even if don't agree; they bring together; many lose contact w siblings once parents die; cousins), but death's hole effects more, move from v. 14 to <sup>15</sup> 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!" Where did this come from? When think of Joseph account, for many, story reached climax and resolution back in chapter 45 w FULL reconciliation! These thoughts/emotions seem to belong to moments immediately following Joseph's disclosure to them, should have been Hollywood moment—terrified Gen. 45:1-3—violent emotions on both sides—Joseph overcome w gratitude, hope, tears of joy/reconciliation—they w worst fears, scared, betrayed, vulnerable—shrank back; understandable as their deeds from the past came to light; feared judgment from only one who knew; but that was 17 years ago; Death exposes fears—some expect, some don't see until piece pulled out (identity, love, resolution, purpose)—Jacob and Joseph had been greatest stabilizers and benefactors, but w Jacob gone, rethink goodness of Joseph & see their benefactor with

terror--Fear, guilt, shame, feel the weight; **What drove their fears?** Not Joseph, but their actions—intended to kill brother, sold him as slave to Egypt, lied to father saying dead; Waltke notes that uneasy conscience leads to respond to Joseph not in faith, but fear—faith/trust dependent on facts, NO REASON to think He is vindictive/will avenge; yet, they appear vulnerable b/r powerful brother because he is w/o the restraining authority of their father before whom he bows Waltke p. 622 **what?** Any questions arise? What more could Joseph do? **What do YOU do in situations like this?** you should do something, but you/I powerless to control outcome—too many pieces; They are scared; this IS what they feel, fear, their facts support their feelings/fears—as shake head and try to make sense, realize

### **A. You can't Do What you Want. v. 15**

Fears b/c of actions; actions BAD, but weren't these actions JUSTIFIED? why did they do it? Action came from years of build-up (**Gen. 37:2-5, 8, 11, 18-19**); they HAD to do what did; it wasn't right; no one doing anything about it; didn't deserve that treatment; doesn't trust us but ALWAYS trusts Joseph, unloved, no way back; but saw cracks in their logic of what was RIGHT/just/fair to do about it as Reuben/Judah broke ranks; but in spite of years to justify selves (even if action extreme, at least didn't kill), FILLED w OLD terrors; **Why? Justice runs deeper than their justifications; Injustice Screams to Be Made Right; JUSTICE** looms large—**keep this in mind as we are in a "whatever"/get over it/relax/NBD society; means we don't value THAT** (sneering in passage in Acts last week when Paul preached at Mars Hill); **but GIVEN that when think wronged, will seek justice; Be CAREFUL w justice!** It IS right to care about right/wrong—to want things right, want injustices righted, but guidelines **1. Watch the small stuff!** Everyday sense of justice/injustice—that's not right; I didn't do anything wrong; I can do this/say this if want—I thought appropriate, leads to how dare they accuse me, they have no business acting like that, to effects on me--I don't deserve, I did more right, it isn't fair, they should be stopped—leads to justifying thoughts building deeper cases against, attitudes, actions—stay away from, tear apart, then finally DO things that whole world agrees unjust; What makes some things "forgivable," and other things build as a grudge? Short records of sin, b/c break fellowship I Jn. 1, **Eph. 4:26**, or builds **Ps. 32:1-5, Ps. 51:1-4** **2. YOU are not the standard of right/wrong, first clue**--your feelings don't necessarily even line up w deep down what you believe right/wrong (shows by quick defensiveness when anyone even suggests something wrong, by how much time continue tearing up what "others might think" sometimes b/r they even say—means don't want to appear a certain way even though "you didn't do wrong" **THIS before even get to where your standard different than God's; often guilty of following our gut w/o analyzing enough; if we feel something, it IS; THEY should change; THEY are wrong;** in this case, they WERE guilty, **but fears came from own judgments about sin, consequences, how others would handle it;** RIGHT that natural to avenge **Bush** heart of man is by nature vindictive p. 425 natural when hurt someone to consider them your enemy; when around him, fear him b/c KNOW he will seek revenge/to avenge; **easy to think that if YOU couldn't forgive, wait for justice or for more pieces b/r act, then they won't;** brothers would have avenged if roles reversed, (had done for sister Dinah—whole city destroyed to save her honor even when man tried to make it right), remembered father afraid of Esau; same term "bear a grudge" **Gen. 27:41** Bush—it is so common for people to seek to be avenged whenever they can get away with it safely that it is hard to believe that people will do otherwise—yet even in the unsaved world, some will love their enemies and bless those who persecute them; (Esau DIDN'T kill Jacob, blessed him) **"We do great injustice to a true Christian, if we think him no better than other men. Though there is indeed flesh as well as spirit within him, yet he has learnt to render to no man evil for evil."** Bush, p. 425 Saul learned this, **I Sam. 24:17-19;** both David & Joseph knew wrong/wicked; both did not sit on their hands w voice/actions (defended their lives, innocence, Joseph tested brothers seemingly harshly), but both acted differently than others; **THEREFORE, though understandable to think Joseph would avenge even after 17 years, WRONG all way to MOTIVE level!** Their thoughts said Joseph's kindness/care b/c of love/respect for father alone, NOT them—merely postponing vengeance; no holding thought of God influencing him apart from their schemes; **they wronged him in their wrong judgment—actions, words, feelings hurt relationship;** Calvin **"But, by such perverse judgement, they do a great injury to one who, by the liberality of his treatment, had borne them witness that his mind was free from all hatred and malevolence. Part of the injurious surmise reflected even upon God, whose special grace had shone forth in the moderation of Joseph. Hence, however, we gather, that guilty consciences are so disturbed by blind and unreasonable fears, that they stumble in broad day-light."** P. 482 **their guilty consciences made them "voluntarily become their own tormentors."** Calvin p. 482 what more could he do to prove forgiveness/kindness? They owed him their lives! **Very sobering as we consider where we seek justice daily in small/great matters** **Matt. 7:1-2** Joseph could have been so wounded by their mistrust after years of care that he might have punished them as they feared; **must be careful when seek justice, Total Depravity means be more suspicious of**

yourself than others—when think you’ve been wronged, even when sure of it, might be wrong or BE the one who has wronged (b/c you don’t think you have, doesn’t mean that you haven’t, Saul/Paul); also, b/c they think you have, doesn’t mean you have (Paul again throughout letters) too many pieces missing as analyze the facts, too much going on that you not caring about, noticing, some that only God knows (conscience, pieces triggered from other events); MUST not merely react to what’s seen, but examine responses and what show about what don’t know; **get to know God better, HIS right/wrong will come to surface**; in this case, actions were bad (next week, will see both Joseph AND brothers not mince words on how bad, but praise God for governor on their evil as afraid of blood on hands—a little bits of godly fear/godly morality EVEN in injustice **3. Have clear path back; When act on fears as run, fight, or feel justified in feeling hurt—be careful, so many variables; what do you want to happen?** WHAT will make it right? Do we have the right standard/perspective? Can they hear what you are saying? Can you hear what they are saying? What about their health/emotions/life situations, their insecurities, fears, conscience, how handle guilt, shame, etc.? Yours? Perhaps not ready because of other pieces; How do we live in the meantime? weak relationship if no words, actions can hold without you questioning whether they love/forgive you—come to this next week as look at their plot for freedom from guilt; **if seeking justice by holding accountable and they don’t see something as sin, do you really want someone to admit wrong** before they see it as wrong? can get “sorry” but no justice/not made right b/c even if sincere, will do again, b/c among other reasons, don’t see it same way—change worldview; **Watch confusion b/n seeking justice and seeking reconciliation**; Justice has to do w crossing line of right/wrong—correction, right action doesn’t wait until they/you understand, but true resolution/reconciliation takes place inside relationship when others see same way, **THEN confess, seek to make amends**; actions come from what believe; You MUST think on these and carefully chart a path; **one of greatest evils you can do b/r God/others is tie them to your pronouncement of judgment without a clear way forward; back that comes from your submitting to God’s perspective**; Don’t limit people to your boundaries of thought and behavior—NOT because they perfect, but b/c total depravity means that everyone not depraved in same way AND limiting God’s ability to sustain and maintain and restore (make all things new) in ones in different ways; make judgment, might be firm—if defending God’s name, honor, but GOD’S character is to bring back, restore, bring to life when repent (**I Tim. 2:4**, does your restoration include them repenting? **II Tim. 2:25-26** notice willingness to pray/care/turn toward in heart even when brokenness/dangerous/can’t support before repenting **Gal. 6:1-3**; see this in Joseph next week; but here, w brothers any wrong against them, any sense of favoritism, injustice from father, immaturity from Joseph in basking in/taking advantage of favoritism didn’t deal w own untrustworthiness that made father turn extra toward Joseph, own brutal sense of justice, and own wrong to Joseph; **What is true remedy for their fears for life/future because of deep sense of justice?** Fear God, the source of JUSTICE; Bulletin quote: “We fear men so much, because we fear God so little. One fear cures another. When man’s terror scares you, turn your thoughts to the wrath of God.” William Gurnall, *A Puritan Golden Treasury*, Thomas, p. 108. **C H Spurgeon**, *Treasury of David*, Commentary for Psalm 4:1 gospel is only gospel if understand wrath of God **Rom. 1:18, Rom. 3:23-27, Rom. 5:6-9** (faith that trusts HIS word, His judgments, His gracious acts of deliverance, **Rom. 8:31-32** (what can separate us from love of Christ); understanding this causes you not to shrink from holding people accountable, but after suspicious of your own justifying/wrong perspective, then hold accountable in light of what God has done for you—show mercy of Father even in judgment **Matt. 18:23-35**; **your fears regarding justice MUST be dealt with by thinking of wrath of God against your sin**; **He** who dares to face his Maker will not tremble before the sons of men.” Fear God not just for sins you think you have done—KEEP this posture with all fears, injustices & insecurities have with others—one of best books read on fear of man (youth read) *When People Are Big, God Small*, “The “fear of man” goes by other names. When we are in our teens, it is called “peer pressure.” When we are older, it is called “people-pleasing.” Recently, it has been called “codependency.” With these labels in mind, we can spot the fear of man everywhere.” p. 14 “1. We fear people because they can expose and humiliate us. 2. We fear people because they can reject, ridicule, or despise us. 3. We fear people because they can attack, oppress, or threaten us. These three reasons have one thing in common: they see people as “bigger” (that is, more powerful and significant) than God, and, out of the fear that creates in us, we give other people the power and right to tell us what to feel, think, and do.” p. 23. “If the gaze of man awakens fear in us, how much more so the gaze of God. If we feel exposed by people, we will feel devastated before God. To even think of such things is too overwhelming. Our hearts tremble at the thought, and we do everything we can to avoid it. One way to avoid God’s eyes is to live as if fear of other people is our deepest problem – they are big, not God.” p. 33 Ed Welch b/c **THEY** looking from below—terrified; look to God, deal with Him, find hope, peace, life, security from life of repentance and faith in God. Calvin, Failure to “draw nigh to God sincerely and with all [your] heart” will leave you “compelled to stand before the judgment-seat of mortal man” p. 483—the only right response then is to return to favor w God “Whosoever shall despise this remedy, shall be afraid not only of man, but also of a shadow, or a breath of wind.” P. 483 b/c of this, did everything in their power to protect from their reality, scorning years of Joseph’s faithful forgiving love and care

**Conclusion:** Justice is natural and right; It is right to feel weight of what you've done—guilt, shame, consequences belong in God's world; therefore, **You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.** let's add, **There IS a remedy and it is both Personal and Transcendent.** What are some of the fruits of A Transcendent and Personal Remedy with God? **1. Humility to see that there is more**—more of your own sin, complexities of justice in broken world including your inability to figure out all the pieces w conscience, attitudes, actions **2. Patience to Wait for Final Justice** **3. Freedom to Praise God for glimpses of faithful love from others**--for any willing to see more in you than the **wrong they see in you (whether you did it OR didn't)**; though messy and brought it on themselves, God had lessons to teach brothers and they WOULD learn/grow from this and Joseph WOULD patiently continue to show compassion and mercy to them though they didn't deserve it, and they would learn more of God's love because of it—trusting His word like their father and forefathers did through their sin/weak faith **4. Confident hope in true gospel driven change;** Hope that people won't always act like you know they will because YOU/your experiences, logic aren't final determiner—Joseph DIDN'T seek to destroy, desired to love, care, provide for them including testing them to see if they had changed; did faithfully for almost 20 years—praise God that not only Joseph, but people like you and me can, in simple faith, by power of Spirit can look farther, higher to Transcendent Judge w true justice, and find that though guilty—we can be justified and receive mercy and grace to help in whatever unjust situation you find yourself in.

## Praise God

**Genesis 27:41** So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

**1 Samuel 24:17–19** He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you. <sup>18</sup> "You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the LORD delivered me into your hand and yet you did not kill me. <sup>19</sup> "For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safely? May the LORD therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done to me this day.

**Psalms 32:1–5** How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! <sup>2</sup> How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! <sup>3</sup> When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup> For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. <sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

**Psalms 51:1–4** Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup> Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

**Matthew 7:1–2** "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. <sup>2</sup> "For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you.

**Matthew 18:23–35** "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> "When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>

"But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. <sup>26</sup> "So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.' <sup>27</sup> "And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> "But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, 'Pay back what you owe.' <sup>29</sup> "So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, 'Have patience with me and I will repay you.' <sup>30</sup> "But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. <sup>31</sup> "So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. <sup>32</sup> "Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup> "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. <sup>35</sup> "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

**Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

**Romans 3:23–27** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup> Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith.

**Romans 5:6–9** For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

**Romans 8:31–32** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

**Galatians 6:1–3** Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

**Ephesians 4:26** BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

**1 Timothy 2:4** who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**2 Timothy 2:25–26** with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Dear friends, today is August 6, the 163rd day of a full-scale war, russian troops continue to conduct active hostilities in the south and east of Ukraine, they continue to destroy our cities, villages, people continue to die! They purposefully destroy the civilian infrastructure of our country! Every day russian troops launch 20-80 missiles at our territories, near the city of Zaporozhye, russian troops have captured a nuclear power plant, they are using this facility as a shield, launching missiles from the territory of the nuclear power plant! The situation is very difficult! We still have the danger of an attack from Belarus, they want to cut us off from Europe by capturing the western part of Ukraine, there is also information that russian troops are planning to capture more territories in the south of Zaporizhia, Nikolayv, and in the eastern direction the big city of Kharkov and Kharkov region! Continue to pray for our country, for our soldiers who are defending us, pray for the occupied territories, pray for Mariupol, they still have no electricity, still have problems with the water! Pray for Ruslan, he is now heading back to Mariupol to continue his ministry on the territory of the orphanage! Pray for the kids from the orphanage who are in Germany, pray for the staff! Thank you again for your prayers and your support! May God bless you! Tima Anokhin

Dear Friends, today is August 13, 171 days of the war, we are still at war, heavy fighting is going on in the south and east of Ukraine, russian troops are trying to capture the entire eastern and southern parts of Ukraine, cutting off our country from access to the Azov and Black sea! Our troops continue to fight bravely, for our independence! Pray for our defenders, also continue to pray for the occupied territories, for Christians who are persecuted, church buildings are taken away from them and services are forbidden! Pray for Mariupol, for Ruslan and the whole team there, he has already returned to Mariupol to continue serving those Who is in need! This week I had the opportunity to spend time with my family, an amazing time that you start to appreciate even more! They have already returned back to Germany, I returned back to Kyiv! Pray for our family and keep praying for our ministry, today we were able to distribute more than 1000 boxes with food, did give away some new testaments! Pray for coming serving this Sunday!! Once again thank you for your support! May God bless you! Tim Anokhin