

NO, YOU CAN'T PT. 2

Genesis 50:15-18

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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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GENESIS 50:15-18

“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.

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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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GENESIS 50:15-18

Guardrails for Seeking Justice

1. Watch the small stuff.

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GENESIS 50:15-18

Guardrails for Seeking Justice

- 1. Watch the small stuff.**
- 2. You are not the standard of right/wrong.**

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GENESIS 50:15-18

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

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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

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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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Their guilty consciences made them “voluntarily become their own tormentors.”

John Calvin

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Their guilty consciences made them “voluntarily become their own tormentors.”

John Calvin

There IS a remedy, and it is both Personal and Transcendent.

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GENESIS 50:15-18

“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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For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.

1 Peter 2:20

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Guardrails for Seeking Justice

- 1. Watch the small stuff.**
- 2. You are not the standard of right/wrong.**
- 3. Have a clear path back.**

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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**
 - B. You Can't Restore Relationships vv. 16-18**

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- I. Sin's Brokenness Runs Deeper than you Know vv. 15-18**
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 - B. You Can't Restore Relationships vv. 16-18**

WATCH the confusion between seeking justice and seeking reconciliation.

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The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

1. Seek Forgiveness

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The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

- 1. Seek Forgiveness**
- 2. Prepare the Way by Giving Time to Process**

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The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

- 1. Seek Forgiveness**
- 2. Prepare the Way by Giving Time to Process**
- 3. Appeal to Source They Love, Honor, or Respect**

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The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

- 1. Seek Forgiveness**
- 2. Prepare the Way by Giving Time to Process**
- 3. Appeal to Source They Love, Honor, or Respect**
- 4. Own Wrong Actions**

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GENESIS 50:15-18

Then they said to one another, “Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us.” 22 Reuben answered them, saying, “Did I not tell you, ‘Do not sin against the boy’; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood.”

Genesis 42:21–22

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GENESIS 50:15-18

The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

- 1. Seek Forgiveness**
- 2. Prepare the Way by Giving Time to Process**
- 3. Appeal to Source They Love, Honor, or Respect**
- 4. Own Wrong Actions**
- 5. Appeal to Common Identity**

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GENESIS 50:15-18

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

Exodus 34:6–7

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GENESIS 50:15-18

Exodus 34:6-7

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!

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 32:1-2, 5

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Exodus 34:6-7

Psalms 32:1-2, 5

Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.

Micah 7:18

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Then they said to one another, “Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us.” 22 Reuben answered them, saying, “Did I not tell you, ‘Do not sin against the boy’; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood.” **23 They did not know, however, that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them. 24 He turned away from them and wept. But when he returned to them and spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.**

Genesis 42:21-24

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GENESIS 50:15-18

Rearranged Gameplan for Release from Sin

1. Appeal to Common Identity

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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.”

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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*

The universal problem of guilt is not owing to the fact that we have failed our fellow man, but because we have failed God.

John Piper

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GENESIS 50:15-18

6 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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6 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**

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

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GENESIS 50:15-18

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

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Rearranged Gameplan for Release from Sin

- 1. Appeal to Common Identity**
- 2. Own Wrong Actions**

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“Such are the problems that beset efforts to bring about reconciliation between those who have become estranged. Very often the barriers put up by those who have been most to blame are the hardest to remove.”

Joyce Baldwin

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GENESIS 50:15-18

“Such are the problems that beset efforts to bring about reconciliation between those who have become estranged. Very often the barriers put up by those who have been most to blame are the hardest to remove.” Joyce Baldwin

“Don’t buy the lie that cultivating condemnation and wallowing in your shame is somehow pleasing to God, or that a constant, low-grade guilt will somehow promote holiness and spiritual maturity. It’s just the opposite! God is glorified when we believe with all our hearts that those who trust in Christ can never be condemned. It’s only when we receive his free gift of grace and live in the good of total forgiveness that we’re able to turn from old, sinful ways of living and walk in grace-motivated obedience.” C J Mahaney

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Rearranged Gameplan for Release from Sin

- 1. Appeal to Common Identity**
- 2. Own Wrong Actions**
- 3. Appeal to Source they Love, Honor, or Respect**

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Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

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Rearranged Gameplan for Release from Sin

- 1. Appeal to Common Identity**
- 2. Own Wrong Actions**
- 3. Appeal to Source they Love, Honor, or Respect**
- 4. Seek Best Way to Seek Forgiveness**

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GENESIS 50:15-18

Forgiveness is a spiritual matter. The failure to forgive ultimately costs you heaven itself! It reveals an unforgiving heart and an unforgiven heart.

Timothy Lane, Forgive Others, New Growth Press

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GENESIS 50:15-18

“Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; **and if he repents, forgive him. 4 “And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”**

Luke 17:3-4

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GENESIS 50:15-18

When you do not understand forgiveness as both an event and a process, discouragement and guilt can set in. This is because your decision to forgive may not immediately heal the hurt, lack of trust, and anger you have towards the person you have forgiven. But if you see forgiveness both as an event and a process, the discouragement and guilt are minimized. You know you have forgiven, even though you are also aware of your temptation to make the person pay for your offense. This awareness keeps you vigilant against sin in your own heart. It leads you to God for His cleansing and strength when you struggle with your attitude towards the person.

Timothy Lane, Forgive Others

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

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

Fruits of a Transcendent and Personal Remedy in God:
1. Humility to see that there is more

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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.**

Fruits of a Transcendent and Personal Remedy in God:

- 1. Humility to see that there is more.**
- 2. Patience to wait for final justice**

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Fruits of a Transcendent and Personal Remedy in God:

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- 3. Freedom to praise God for glimpses of faithful love**

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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.

Fruits of a Transcendent and Personal Remedy in God:

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

No, You Can't Pt. 2

Genesis 50:15-18, Sunday AM, August 28, 2022

Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 50:14-18 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. 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."

It's hard to hear this passage without filling in the ending. But, in our desire to fix things and have resolution, we miss the lessons to be learned from the brokenness. Last week, we looked from below and saw that grieving for a loved father was not the heaviest thing on the minds of Jacob's 11 sons. Death exposed fears that focused on one part of dad's presence that they needed right now. Protection. Protection from Joseph their brother. But their fears were not really focused on Joseph. They were rooted in their actions. Their crime—their wrong actions. Their sense of just and fair drove them to actions that true justice would not vindicate. Year after year, unable to be freed from these actions, their guilty consciences became their greatest tormentors. How can we be freed? How can the wrong be made right again? And, despite Jacob and Joseph's words and actions toward this end, no human could fully release them. We will preach once again largely focused on the view from below, but we gather here today because of the gospel. Sing of the release that comes from a Transcendent and Personal Remedy. Amazing love, how can it be, that Thou my God shouldst die for me. (2nd verse at least only on wall).

***Hymn #203 (Powerpoint for 2nd verse): And Can It Be**

Did you hear a gospel that brings hope for you? For the one sitting next to you? For every one of Adam's race? Familiarity makes us miss it. God's wrath didn't disappear. Mercy didn't eliminate justice. Wrath and mercy met in the Perfect Providence of God so that justice regarding your sin, your guilt, your debt was fully satisfied. Sing it slowly. Meditate and worship God's perfect deliverance—justice satisfied AND perfect reconciliation for those who believe.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Come and See (We Worship at Your Feet)**

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D**

Scripture: Hosea 2:1-3:5 Say to your brothers, "Ammi," and to your sisters, "Ruhamah."² "Contend with your mother, contend, For she is not my wife, and I am not her husband; And let her put away her harlotry from her face And her adultery from between her breasts.³ Or I will strip her naked And expose her as on the day when she was born. I will also make her like a wilderness. Make her like desert land And slay her with thirst."⁴ "Also, I will have no compassion on her children, Because they are children of harlotry."⁵ "For their mother has played the harlot; She who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, 'I will go after my lovers, Who give me my bread and my water, My wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.'⁶ "Therefore, behold, I will hedge up her way with thorns, And I will build a wall against her so that she cannot find her paths."⁷ "She will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; And she will seek them, but will not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go back to my first husband, For it was better for me than now!'"⁸ "For she does not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the new wine and the oil, And lavished on her silver and gold, Which they used for Baal."⁹ "Therefore, I will take back My grain at harvest time And My new wine in its season. I will also take away My wool and My flax Given to cover her nakedness."¹⁰ "And then I will uncover her lewdness In the sight of her lovers, And no one will rescue her out of My hand."¹¹ "I will also put an end to all her gaiety, Her feasts, her new moons, her sabbaths And all her festal assemblies."¹² "I will destroy her vines and fig trees, Of which she said, 'These are my wages Which my lovers have given me.' And I will make them a forest, And the beasts of the field will devour them."¹³ "I will punish her for the days of the Baals When she used to offer sacrifices to them And adorn herself with her earrings and jewelry, And follow her lovers, so that she forgot Me," declares the LORD.¹⁴ "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Bring her into the wilderness And speak kindly to her."¹⁵ "Then I will give her her vineyards from there, And the valley of Achor as a door of hope. And she will sing there as in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt."¹⁶ "It will come about in that day," declares the LORD, "That you will call Me Ishi And will no longer call Me Baali."¹⁷ "For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, So that they will be mentioned by their names no more."¹⁸ "In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky And the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety."¹⁹ "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion,²⁰ And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD."²¹ "It will come about in that day that I will respond," declares the LORD. "I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth."²² And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine and to the oil, And they will respond to Jezreel."²³ "I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, 'You are my God!'"²⁴ Then the LORD said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by her husband, yet an adulteress, even as the LORD loves the sons of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love raisin cakes."²⁵ So I bought her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a half of barley."²⁶ Then I said to her, "You shall stay with me for many days. You shall not play the harlot, nor shall you have a man; so I will also be toward you."²⁷ "For the sons of Israel will remain for many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred pillar and without ephod or household idols."²⁸ "Afterward the sons of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king; and they will come trembling to the LORD and to His goodness in the last days."

Offering: *Doxology:

Hosea's situation is bad. It's really bad! Is there any way back for Hosea's wife? Could you do what God called Hosea to do? Forgive? What does that mean? But even if you could forgive and live toward her, seeking her good, could you make her feel forgiven? Can you restore a relationship? Should you try? Yes, probably more than you think necessary. But when you see how many pieces are involved in true forgiveness and reconciliation, you recognize your need for help. You need more than a counselor. You need supernatural help. If saved, you've not only been given what is needed to forgive and reconcile, but you've BEEN forgiven and reconciled. How did God do this for you? If others can't deal with your sin and you can't deal with your sin, how did He deal with it in a way to satisfy justice AND give forgiveness and reconciliation as a beloved child. Sing the glorious work of God in the gospel! Is this YOUR reality?

***Hymn #522: He Lifted Me**

With or without complete justice or reconciliation on earth, there IS life for you down here because you can have life with God based on true justice and full forgiveness and reconciliation. Because of this, you can live with confident hope, fulfilling His will for you even as He prepares you for some opportunities to bring about His justice and reconciliation His way. Praise God for a living hope that extends beyond your days on this earth!

***Hymn (Powerpoint): There is a Hope So Sure**

Message: No, You Can't Pt. 2 Genesis 50:15-18

Brothers, you MUST do something to work through your relationship with your brother Joseph, but while you should plan wisely, your ultimate hope lies not in your plans and seemingly greatest earthly assets. Your hope lies with the One who is your Redeemer and then Shepherd and Guardian of Your soul. Early let us seek His favor, early let us do His will. HE is our blessed Lord and only Savior. With HIS love, our bosoms fill. Ask God to bring repentance for misguided hope, and trust this Great Shepherd.

***Hymn #462: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

***Prayer**

No, You Can't Pt. 2

Genesis 50:15-18 CBC, Sunday AM, August 28, 2022

Intro: Last week, started from below, fixing broken bones to fixing Russia/Ukraine—fears, complexities, unknowns; let's start from above—bulletin quote said, "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 The wrath of God?! we gave it a context last week inside the gospel—will work toward that today, more next week, but think on forgiveness—want it, but do those professing Christ feel weight of showing mercy of the Father even in judgment against wrongs committed? **Matt. 18:23-35** sobering passage; should make a little uncomfortable—who, what comes to mind as you listen? Have you been sinned against in a large way? Have you forgiven them? Have you wrestled with the “puzzles of forgiveness?” does forgiveness mean forget? Does it remove consequences? Can you build solid relationships with those who have sinned against you? What if they don't think they've done anything wrong? do they need to acknowledge and repent before you forgive them? How do you live with them before they acknowledge and or repent? What keeps their real or supposed sin from hindering your relationship with God and others? Forgiveness INCLUDES “bigs” but remember guardrails for justice **1. Watch the small stuff** How would you fix these situations? **Tripp, What Did You Expect? pp. 30-32, 86-87** Are these marriages fixable, forgivable? Be careful when say, yes, or I don't have to until they ____, or I did more than my share, **OR, if these were the only offenses I could**; Remember, large or small, if you can't forgive your brother (Eph. 4:32) like God has forgiven you, He won't forgive you—**didn't say this to say impossible, saying this to implicate all of us**; ALL MUST feel the weight of SIN from God's perspective; guardrail #2 **2. YOU are not the standard of right/wrong** if spend forever justifying self, means even YOU wonder if you are fully innocent; if must defend against every insinuation from another, haven't even gotten to God's holy standard; **hence danger w sweeping movements seeking justice and forgiveness like Black Lives Matter, Intersectionality, Critical Race Theory where right desire to correct injustice and broken relationships turns into an identity of injustice w relationships built around that injustice w strict rules for atonement**; but isn't that the kind of forgiveness shown by Master in Matt. 18? **so shall I do if each does not forgive his brother from the heart**; I thought master forgave him? the wonderful terms of justice and forgiveness seem painfully elusive; but while life from below seems hopeless, **Christians live with hope, life, b/c they are born again—have life of God in them with eyes fixed on God of life**; while life leaks into sermon today, will continue to look on our subject FROM BELOW—our side, highlighting the **darkness and transient nature of life dependent on ANYTHING created**; as noted last week, you are responsible; **You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You**, why? b/c

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

v. 15 have lived with this for some 39 years—life went on after the act/living in deception with father and everyone who asked about brother; **married, had children; greatest fear was secret coming out**; IT DID, NOW will be judged, sick; roughed up a bit, understandable when found out who he was; he then lavished care/protection on them—going from famine to top of what Egypt had to offer couldn't be better; 17 years of it, **but the act still there**; can't think of brother being at top w/o thinking about how he got there; **now, dad died**, once again bringing their fears to surface; Jacob loved, respected by Joseph—I am Joseph, is my father still alive; **what if we said no, would it have been different?** What if only good to us b/c of him? Understood how they felt, but unlivable; torn apart by guilt, fear of consequences, inability to live w uncertainty of dark future; all showing,

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

Real fear wasn't Joseph—it lay with their actions; had years to justify those actions; came from years of favoritism; Gen. 37:2-5, 8, 11, 18-19 youngest getting love; trusted when he tattles about their BAD behavior; doesn't trust us but ALWAYS trusts Joseph AND dreams about ruling over; 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** (consumed thought, sleep, conversation, relationships); nothing they or Joseph did could free them; **their guilty consciences made them “voluntarily become their own tormentors.”** Calvin p. 482 **What is true remedy for their fears for life/future because of deep sense of justice? There IS a remedy, and it is both Personal and Transcendent.** Fear God, the source of JUSTICE; C H Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*, Commentary for Psalm 4:1 **He** who dares to face his Maker will not tremble before the sons of men.” if you've sinned, admit to God/those sinned against, just/right way to submit to consequences **I Pet. 2:20**; whether justly/unjustly suffering, face Your Maker w ALL fears, injustices and insecurities and live! allow God to reign, expand

your world even if limited b/c of your/their actions; b/c THEY looking from below, lived inside OWN judgments about sin/consequences, how others would handle it, they were terrified; instead of following 3rd guardrail of having clear path back from injustice from God's perspective, they were left to own devices/schemes, doing all in power to protect from their reality, scorning years of Joseph's faithful forgiving love and care; while you should, you must seek to right wrongs and bring peace to conflict,

II. You can't Restore Relationships vv. 16-18

Watch confusion b/n seeking justice and seeking reconciliation; Justice, crossing line of right/wrong; if right—praise, encourage to continue; if wrong, talk about stopping; changing direction, payment, atonement, punishment; justice doesn't wait until they/you understand; acting justly necessary to bring life, save life, help flourish, keep integrity, defend honor, even when they don't get it; Seeking reconciliation is in realm of relationships—talk about forgiveness; release, restoration, feelings of sorrow, hope, way forward, continuing together with growing understanding and care; While Justice/Reconciliation related, differences lead to confusion/imbalance in handling wrongs inside relationships; also why guilt destroys not only relationship sinned against, but other relationships as well; MUST think on these and carefully chart path; HERE, brothers drowning in guilt/fears based on what HAD done; MUST do something, this is their best plan 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." **1. Seek forgiveness**, we did wrong; too big for us, need advocate/help, don't ask for what deserve, ask for mercy, release, something restored; **2. Prepare the Way by giving Time to Process**--Sent message—literally commanded, appointed, charged—perhaps one of brothers brought word, perhaps messenger, but who? embarrassing, damning to have crime known by strangers, perhaps one of their servants--not ready to meet face to face ie. Jacob sending gifts ahead to Esau—so terrified, elaborate plan to "protect" **3. Appeal to Source They Love, Honor, or Respect**--trump card, Joseph loved, honored, respected, obeyed father even though Joseph more powerful position—appealed to dead father's last living moments, solemn, memorable time all careful not to dishonor; we asked daddy what to do if there was any thought about our actions toward you in the past after he died; not like you've treated us badly, but we were just concerned—not saying you don't have right; I mean, it WAS bad, it WAS big—and you've been amazing as anyone in your most honorable position would be about our wrong, HE told us to ask for your forgiveness; so we ARE; **4. Own Wrong Actions**; impressively no excuses—just WRONG; already admitted sin w/o realizing Gen. 42:21-22; Wenham notes use 3 of 4 main OT terms for wicked deeds (taking full responsibility), transgression—rebellious acts/break away from, disloyal, behave as a criminal; sin—miss mark, offend, guilt; wrong—evil, wickedness, depravity, contemptible; Finally, **5. Appealed to Common Identity** WHO did this crime? Your brothers, (even though we sought to disown you, ARE flesh and blood (your father 2x, he is OUR father), but greater servants of the God of your father. father you respect—HE servant of this God, God of your grandfather, great-grandfather; we, too are His servants—implying, HE with HIS justice hasn't killed us, let us live—is He YOUR God? Is He Your Master? than as His representative, be like Him Wenham, p. 490 Ex. 34:6-7, Ps. 32:1-2, 5, Micah 7:18; how does He do this? That's something should think about, but just acknowledge He does; has a way forward—ALL this in common! So now what? Did all go have meeting, one, messenger? Not sure, have given their best shot—now wait in suspense; hardest to wait—often expecting hammer to fall, but smallest hope remains; imagine worst, will he call for guards, execution that night, had they eaten their last meal—should have done differently, waited to bring to his attention?!? And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. wept? Shocked after fears; Relief! What do w tears? Don't know, but perhaps NOT die, NOT prison; next response, ¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." if you forgive, release and YOU are servant of God, like Him gracious/merciful, we will show our yielding to Him by being your servants; Notice backed up need for mercy w posture of mercy: you don't believe you need mercy when reserve right for backtalk, disgust, disdain; as first fears removed and head clears, wonder, Why weep? Joseph has different reality then they, hear next week, but look from what know of him; perhaps **1.** Because they talked father; loved him from childhood! So when first reunited, is my father still alive? Then, Gen. 46:29 17 years w him; precious talks before died, Gen. 49:33-50:1 **2.** For same reason wept when first came—cared for them, wanted things right with family—loved them, part of them Gen. 43:29-31, 45:1-2, 14-15, had tried to care for them best could within power—what more could he do? **3.** Not b/c ask for forgiveness, RIGHT, a biblical necessity, but so paralyzed by guilt/fear, mistrusted his intent that desperate for

mediator like 17 yrs. ago; such chaos to relationship w all meetings/messengers/pulling father in—did he EVEN say this to them—might have, would have, **but if he was really afraid, wouldn't he have told me?** Fear often pushes boundaries so say, do what might never do, creating morality that fits fears making more untrustworthy; **Does his track record show bitter man—one owed more from them?** You know what's coming, but they don't; Ached for them 17 yrs. ago, **Gen. 42:21-24** now, their submissive posture softens whatever frustration felt; **w compassion**, saw through their eyes fear awakened by father's death; **Let's look at steps of their plan for reconciliation in different order 1.**

Appeal to Common Identity—IF family, you don't give up; might not be ready yet, but you have pass that others don't have; **IF One God—humanity; the fact that it happened b/n you/them—something between you; deal w it!** But servants of God of Your Father—who is He? Creator, Sovereign Sustainer, Final Judge; **when it comes to wrongs, deal with Him whether did it or done to you!** **"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. This week, **The universal problem of guilt is not owing to the fact that we have failed our fellow man, but because we have failed God.** John Piper, *Jesus Is Precious Because He Removes Our Guilt*, February 21, 1982. Joseph problem NOT bigger than God problem (family tie, humanity tie might seem primary, reconciliation with God might seem irrelevant OR not possible, but freedom through Him alone—**Rom. 5:6-9**, how is this ours? **Rom. 5:1-2** (faith that trusts HIS word, judgments, gracious acts of deliverance, **II Cor. 5:18-19** if focus on/deal with God first, have solid framework for next step **2. Own Wrong Actions** Repentance only way to true clarity and healing, but **Internal posture of Repentance and Trust is difficult to accept and maintain.** Must first say the same thing; in this case, DID see it same way—Joseph heard them say, but didn't know heard; said to dad, but must say w party sinned against; **tough if don't agree w party about sin, and way back;** Failure to have final standard leaves us perhaps wanting forgiveness/ reconciliation, but too focused on you, what you need—them, what they say right/wrong; **must be willing to see it another way, listen, stop merely defending own position—**when you are frustrated b/c they won't listen to you, accept your standard, what about actions they have endured before you acknowledge that perhaps they had a point?; **can't repent over what don't see wrong** (b/n Christians, danger if Bible not authority for determining root problem AND solution b/c elevated personal interpretation/relevancy, neglecting careful study of God's Word and obedience to it—erosion of sufficiency and power of God's Word) for example, Baldwin notes that **II Cor. 5:19** shows God forgiving us in Christ, "but the majority of the world's population is unimpressed and unconvinced." p. 219 **"Such are the problems that beset efforts to bring about reconciliation between those who have become estranged. Very often the barriers put up by those who have been most to blame are the hardest to remove."** Baldwin, p. 219 CJ Mahaney *The Cross Centered Life*, 2002, p. 39-40 notes, **"Don't buy the lie that cultivating condemnation and wallowing in your shame is somehow pleasing to God, or that a constant, low-grade guilt will somehow promote holiness and spiritual maturity. It's just the opposite! God is glorified when we believe with all our hearts that those who trust in Christ can never be condemned. It's only when we receive his free gift of grace and live in the good of total forgiveness that we're able to turn from old, sinful ways of living and walk in grace-motivated obedience."** **3. Appeal to Source They Love, Honor, or Respect** appealed to father, but when spoke of servants of God, there is hope—those reconciled to God not only have fellowship w Him and His standard of righteousness, but live that reconciliation, then pass it on; **II Cor. 5:20** LIVE looking to give this message; things NOT okay between you and God; don't offer peace w God w/o showing problem, way of peace; **THIS experience and mission of reconciliation makes natural for you to look to God when conflict w another AND continue b/c He has w you—**don't waste opportunities of conflict to live God's present mercy to you; **Vertical communion allows God's Word to point to God's character inside relationship with Him;** makes weep for what He weeps for (Spurgeon quote from pr. mtg.) love makes care about intent of His Word/goal, mind of Christ—**study not merely to defend yourself, but to humble yourself; if not saved, look for eternal qualities they value** like truth, trustworthy, openness, healing, family; **When relationships deep, can get to point and work through without fragility (just wondering . . . fixes much)** **Applic. What are you doing to have relationships open to make quick work of sin? 4. THEN seek best way to seek forgiveness**—though not in this order, God working & brothers in posture of repentance, Bush notes that hard to seek revenge w ones so fully prostrate at your feet; Calvin says we are harder than iron if not willing to p. 484 both acknowledged that under God, THIS distinguished them from all others; For all truly servants of God, truly born again, have tasted of His forgiveness & reconciliation through Christ, **Spirit of God inside will lead to forgive in way He has forgiven you Eph. 4:32;** THIS is why Matt. 18 says if you do not forgive from heart, God won't forgive you; **Forgiveness is a spiritual matter. The failure to forgive ultimately costs you heaven itself! It reveals an unforgiving heart and an unforgiven heart. Timothy Lane, Forging Others, New Growth Press, 2004, p. 8.** will come to Joseph's forgiving response next week, **but for most conflicts, not this easy;** if no common identity, don't agree on wrong, no value to appeal to, then can't have reconciliation b/c can't repent **LK.**

17:3-4, but can have posture of forgiveness while wait; When you do not understand forgiveness as both an event and a process, discouragement and guilt can set in. This is because your decision to forgive may not immediately heal the hurt, lack of trust, and anger you have towards the person you have forgiven. But if you see forgiveness both as an event and a process, the discouragement and guilt are minimized. You know you have forgiven, even though you are also aware of your temptation to make the person pay for your offense. This awareness keeps you vigilant against sin in your own heart. It leads you to God for His cleansing and strength when you struggle with your attitude towards the person. Timothy Lane, *Forgiving Others*, New Growth Press, 2004,

p. 9. When comes up, forgiveness from your side means releasing to God for justice and healing, then free to live as think of ways to head them towards pieces missing as God allows—committed to process, even if not to happen on this earth; DO SOMETHING—YOU, first w God, then slowly w others, perhaps not ready yet—many of you have heard father talking about gunlap—winding down—had series of hard visits over last year—people w brokenness—had heart to try again w some of them—not ready for full reconciliation b/c worldview hasn't shifted enough, but good visits

Conclusion: Where are we? Better—better than they could ever have thought, but right now, from their place on the ground b/r Joseph, still treating Joseph wrong—didn't ASK them to be slaves—he HAD forgiven them long before even though they distrusted him Boice p. 1251; thankful for heart fully exposed, brought low, but want more for these brothers and want more for ourselves than horizontal freedom from those we have sinned against-- **Applic: Where do you look for reconciliation? Who/What is your mediator? When you find yourself in this position, must deal with it—**

You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You. don't run, but your hope must be beyond good/bad results—Justice is natural and right; It is right to feel weight of what you've done—guilt, shame, consequences belong in God's world, as do reconciliation, with accompanying attitudes of compassion, mercy, perseverance, humility; but so many pieces that beyond our control; to bring about restoration and reconciliation in relationships that is truly eternal demands that we seek **There IS a remedy and it is both Personal and Transcendent.** What are some fruits of Transcendent/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; **but**

looking too low if think humility, patience, etc. alone will fix it, BOTH sides need to come under God **2. Patience to**

Wait for Final Justice **3. Freedom to Praise God for glimpses of faithful love**--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; **BECAUSE wrath of God is wrath that matters, fear Him**—HOW, See not only Judge, but Deliverer—God who saves eternally! turn to God and be freed from His wrath through Christ; if I truly fear Him, will see this deliverance as precious and will study how He can free you from His wrath (yes cross—but must understand more or cross just means painful death, NOT satisfied justice—IT IS FINISHED! **justice and reconciliation available NOW so you can live and pursue both with others; this is life of Christ in you**

Genesis 42:21–24 Then they said to one another, “Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us.”²² Reuben answered them, saying, “Did I not tell you, ‘Do not sin against the boy’; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood.”²³ They did not know, however, that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them.²⁴ He turned away from them and wept. But when he returned to them and spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

Exodus 34:6–7 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth;⁷ who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

Psalms 32:1–2, 5 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!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.

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity And passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in unchanging love.

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.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.”

Luke 17:3–4 “Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.⁴ “And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”

Romans 5:1–2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:6–9 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.

2 Corinthians 5:18–19 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

1 Peter 2:20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.