

"Joseph Forgives His Brothers"

Genesis 45

How to handle being wronged - The Spiritual Discipline.

1. Cry rather than rage. (45:1-3)

- A. The N.T. foreseen as being a time of soft, spirit filled hearts. (Ez. 36:26-27)
- B. A hard heart will hinder your growth (Matt. 13:5)
 - I. In many cases, it will hinder even your salvation.
- C. Wise people are sad. (Ecc. 1:18)

"With much wisdom comes much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain."

- D. Beware of ending a day with a hard heart. (Eph. 4:26, 30-32; 5:1-2)
- E. You will be being like Christ. (Isa. 53:3)

2. Do not wish ill to your offenders. (45:4-5a)

- A. It is an evil thing to enjoy seeing those who've wronged you hurt. (Prov. 24:17-18)
- B. You will be being like Christ. (Luke 23:24)

"Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

3. Find the Sovereignty of God. (45:5b-8)

- A. Jesus understood this Biblical reality well. (Luke 19:10-11)

Pilate said to Him, "Do you not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above."

- B. If you could see your whole life - good times and bad, hurts and all - from God's perspective it would all come together and make a whole lot more sense than it might now.
 - I. Paul saw from this heavenly perspective. (Gal. 1:15)

"But, God set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace..."

- C. Learn to be thankful even in your pain. (1 Thess. 5:17)

4. Do good in return if you can. (45:9-11)

- A. Seek what is good for all people, even those who've hurt you. (1 Thess. 5:15)
- B. God has called us to love even those who've wronged us. (Luke 6:27-31)
 - I. God's agape love requires being wronged. (Luke 6:32-36)
- C. You will be being like Christ. (Luke 22:51)

"Jesus said, 'Stop! No more of this.' And He touched his ear and healed him."

These steps are more for you than for your offenders. (45:14-15)