

Genesis 42: 1-8

1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at each other?" 2 He continued, "I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die." 3 Then ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. 4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with the others, because he was afraid that harm might come to him. 5 So Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, for the famine was in the land of Canaan also.

Genesis 41: 1-8

6 Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the one who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. 7 As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food." 8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him.

Genesis 45: 1-7

1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

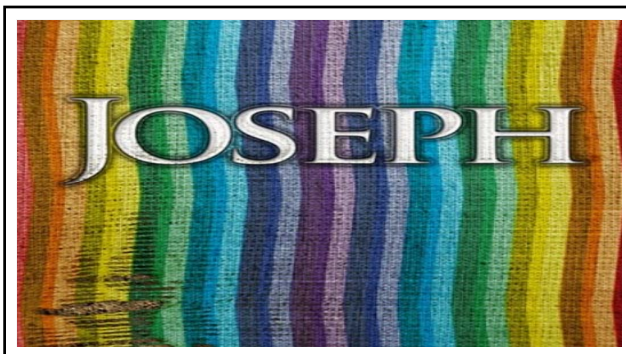
Genesis 45: 1-7

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Hebrews 12:15,

"See to it that NO BITTER ROOT GROWS UP to cause trouble and defile many!"

"We write our MISTAKES in SAND, but our INJUSTICES in STONE!"



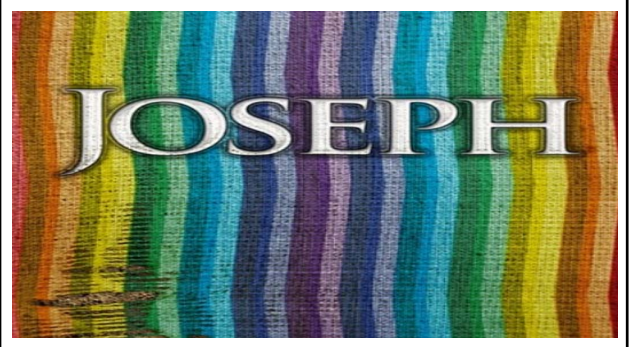
Bitterness can "CONSUME" you, and "MOTIVATE" you, to "DEFILE", and "DESTROY"!!

Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive US, our sins, as WE, forgive those who sin against us!"

Mark 11:25,

"When you stand praying, if you hold ANYTHING, against ANYONE, forgive HIM, so that your Father In Heaven may forgive YOU, your sins!"

**Paul said,
"Get rid of ANGER, MALICE,
BITTERNESS, and be KIND and
FORGIVING to one another, as
GOD, has FORGIVEN you."**

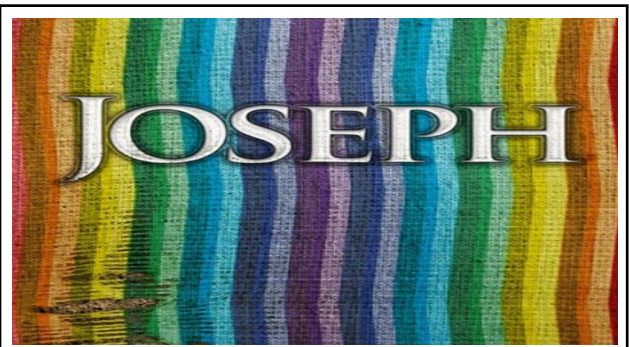


**3 STAGES OF LIFE:
"YOUTH" - "MIDDLE AGE" &
"YOU'RE, LOOKING GOOD!"**

**Note that Joseph had
an "OPPORTUNITY" for
"REVENGE"!**

Genesis 42:6,

**"So When Joseph's brothers arrived,
they bowed down to him with their
faces to the ground."**



Ways to "GET EVEN":

- "LEGAL Retaliation"
- "FINANCIAL Retaliation"
- "VERBAL Retaliation"
- "Retaliation with COOL TREATMENT"
- "Retaliation of TURNING OTHERS AGAINST"

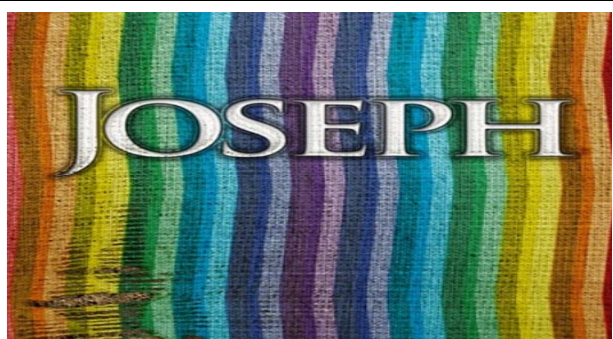
**But, Joseph was
"FAITHFUL IN
FORGIVENESS!!"**

Genesis 45:1,

"Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, 'Have everyone leave my presence!' So, there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. And, he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's house heard about it."

Genesis 45:3,

"I am Joseph! Is my father still living?' But, his brothers were not able to answer him because they were terrified at his presence!"



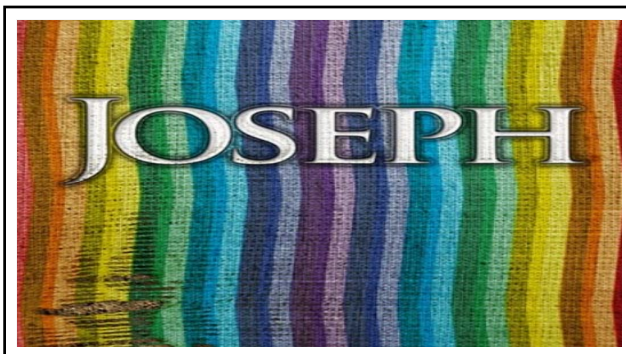
Genesis 45:4,

"Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come close to me.' And when they had done so, he said, 'I am your brother, Joseph; the one you sold into Egypt. And, now, do not be distressed, and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.'"

**James says,
"Let no man say when
tempted, I am tempted of
God, for God cannot be
tempted by evil, nor does He
tempt anyone."**

Genesis 45:14,

**"Then he threw his arms around his
brother, Benjamin, and wept! And,
Benjamin embraced him, weeping. And,
he kissed all his brothers, and wept over
them! Afterwards his brothers talked with
him."**



3 "STEPS" OF FORGIVENESS

**1.) Forgiveness "RELEASES" the right to
"RETALIATE", forever!**

Romans 12:19,

**"Do not repay anyone evil for evil.....
but leave room for God's wrath! For, it
is written, 'It is MINE TO AVENGE; I
will REPAY', says The Lord!"**

Hebrews 12:15,

**"See to it that NO ONE MISSES the
GRACE of GOD, and that NO BITTER
ROOT GROWS UP, to cause TROUBLE
and to DEFILE many!"**

3 "STEPS" OF FORGIVENESS

- 1.) Forgiveness "RELEASES" the right to "RETALIATE", forever!
- 2.) I will "DO MY PART" to "RESTORE" the relationship!

There's a "DIFFERENCE" between "FORGIVING" someone, and "RESTORING CREDIBILITY" and "TRUST"!

Romans 12:17,

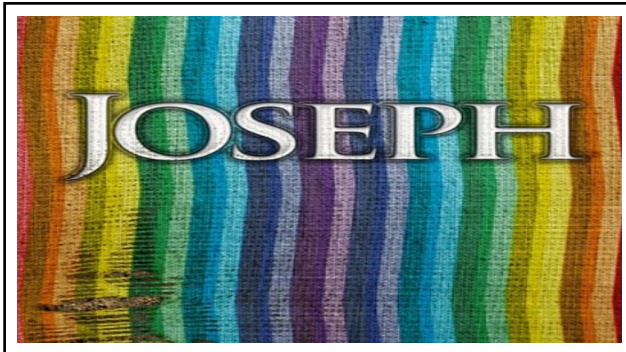
"Don't repay evil for evil; on the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if thirsty, give him something to drink!"

We are MOST like "BEASTS" when we "KILL"; we are MOST like "MAN" when we "JUDGE". We are like "GOD" when we "FORGIVE"!

3 "STEPS" OF FORGIVENESS

- 1.) Forgiveness "RELEASES" the right to "RETALIATE", forever!
- 2.) I will "DO MY PART" to "RESTORE" the relationship!
- 3.) I "ACKNOWLEDGE" the "SOVEREIGNTY" of "GOD" in all circumstances!

Joseph said, "YOU meant it for BAD, but GOD turned it around for GOOD!"



**Forgiveness
"IS POSSIBLE", regardless
of "HOW SERIOUS" the
"OFFENSE"!**

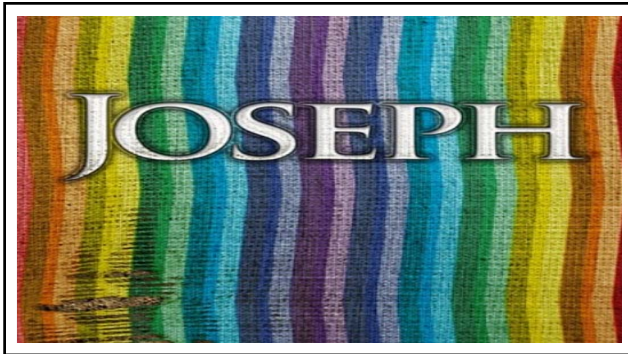
**Our "ABILITY" to "FORGIVE", is
"DIRECTLY RELATED", to our
"UNDERSTANDING" of "GOD'S
FORGIVENESS", of "US"!**

**Jesus said,
"EXCEPT YOU REPENT
YOU SHALL ALL PERISH!"**

**How "MUCH"
do "YOU" need to
"BE FORGIVEN" by "GOD"?**

Matthew 6:14-15,

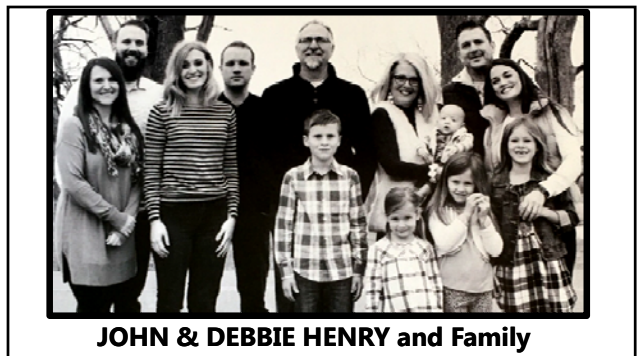
**"For if you FORGIVE men, when THEY
SIN against you, your HEAVENLY
FATHER will ALSO FORGIVE you. BUT,
if you do NOT forgive men THEIR
SINS, your Father will NOT FORGIVE
your sins!"**



JOHN HENRY
"EXECUTIVE PASTOR"



JOHN & DEBBIE HENRY
"EXECUTIVE PASTOR" & WIFE



JOHN & DEBBIE HENRY and Family