

The Remedy for Resentment: Forgiveness

Genesis 41:39-41 "Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰ You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." ⁴¹ So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."

Genesis 42:6-9 "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. ⁹ Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

Genesis 42:21-24 "They said to one another, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come upon us." ²² Reuben replied, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood." ²³ They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter. ²⁴ He turned away from them and began to weep, but then turned back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes."

Genesis 45:1-8 "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. 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. ⁸ "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God."

The remedy for resentment is not revenge.

The remedy for resentment is forgiveness.

Forgiveness – releasing others from wrongs suffered

The perspective that leads to forgiveness: recognize the reality of their sin
(You intended to harm me)

recognize the reality of God's sovereignty
(God intends it for good)

Small Group Questions

1. What is your Joseph story? How have you been wronged?
2. Why is it so hard for you to forgive when wronged like this?
3. Read the following passages, and answer this question: According to these passages, how should we respond?
Col. 1:13-14, Ps. 103:2-5; 1Jn. 1:9, Ps. 103:12, Mt. 18:21-35, Mt. 6:9-15, Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13, Lk. 23:32-43
4. Much of this is easier said than done, but what will be an action step that you can take today towards releasing other wrongs suffered?