

Living the Life You Never Wanted



Part 4: Getting Beyond a Grudge

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died:



‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.”



“When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?



You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.



Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father's family. He lived a hundred and ten years and saw the third generation of Ephraim's children. Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph's knees.



Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said,



“God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place.”

So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Genesis 50:15-26 (NIV)



Joseph gives us some pointers in getting past a grudge:



1) Joseph lets go of the past.

Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On.



Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, “It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” The second son he named Ephraim and said, “It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.”

Genesis 41:50-52 (NIV)



2) Joseph leaves justice to God.

My friends, do not try to punish others when they wrong you, but wait for God to punish them with his anger. It is written: "I will punish those who do wrong; I will repay them," says the Lord.

Romans 12:19 (NCV)



3) Joseph moves on, trusting God's plan.

You tried to harm me, but God made it turn out for the best, so that he could save all these people, as he is now doing.

Genesis 50:20 (CEV)



**How to get over a grudge like
Joseph does:**



1) Practice forgiveness.



Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:21-22



“Resentment is like drinking poison
and waiting for the other person to
die.”

- Carrie Fisher



2) Let go of your desire for revenge.



To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

*“He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”*

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

1 Peter 2:21-23 (NIV)



3) Discover God's plan in the situation.



Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)



“When you say a person or situation is hopeless, you are slamming the door in the face of God.”

Charles L. Allen

