



Sunday, August 6, 2017  
Pastor Don Denyes

## **Introduction to Genesis 45**

If we are followers of Jesus Christ then we have received incredible forgiveness, of which we are unworthy. As a forgiven people, we are called to show and share that forgiveness with others when they wrong us. However, all too often we fail to forgive and we hold on to resentment and bitterness.

In the story of Joseph, we see incredible forgiveness that goes against everything in our human nature. Joseph had every reason to be angry and bitter with his brothers and treat them the same way that he was treated. However, three times Joseph tells his brothers that it was not them, but God who had caused everything to happen and sent him to Egypt.

## **Context**

Genesis 45 continues the story of Joseph when he finally reveals to his brothers who he is. After testing his brothers by sending them back and forth from Egypt to Canaan, Joseph can no longer keep his identity a secret. After he reveals his identity he asks his brothers about their father, but they were so terrified they could not answer. Joseph then extends incredible forgiveness and brings his family to Egypt where he can provide for them. However later in Genesis chapter 50 when their father Jacob dies, Joseph's brothers lie about instructions that their father left because they feared Joseph. This caused Joseph to weep because it revealed that the brothers didn't truly understand the incredible forgiveness that Joseph had shown them.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Incredible Forgiveness”

Read Genesis 45

I. Punishment deserved

II. Pardon granted

III. Peace received

IV. Promises reaffirmed

## **Discuss**

- 1) If we truly believe that God has forgiven all our sins, then why is it often so difficult to extend to others the type of incredible forgiveness that Joseph showed to his brothers?
- 2) Read Matthew 6:14-15. Are there any people in your life who you have not forgiven? What obstacles or barriers are in the way of you offering them incredible forgiveness?

- 3) Joseph's story is an Old Testament picture of the life of Jesus. What are some of the similarities you find the most striking between Joseph and Jesus? Why?
  
- 4) In a difficult or tragic situation, how can a Christians response of forgiveness contrast with the worlds response and point people to Jesus? (Think about the example of "Amish Grace")
  
- 5) What is something that you can do this week to extend incredible forgiveness? How would your daily life and interactions with others look different if you forgave people the way that God forgives us?