

And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11:25

Store In My Heart

Daniel 1:6-7

Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.

Though not often categorized as such, Daniel, like Esther, reveals some of the history of Jews in exile. The first half or so of this book tells us of how these four young men grew up and lived in the capital of their conquerors. These stories are often used to teach our children the importance of remaining faithful among the people of the world. They are a powerful testament to the endurance of those who put their complete faith in God. These lessons are essentials in our lives as adults also. We need to keep them in mind.



If We Don't Forgive, We're Paralyzed

Gary Henry

“And Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Please come near to me.’ So they came near. Then he said: ‘I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life’” (Genesis 45:4-5).

As Important As It Is To Make Forward Progress, We Often Put Ourselves In A Position Where It Is Impossible To Do So. We paralyze ourselves by failing to forgive. Having done little to rid our hearts of resentment, we find that our minds do little but replay the past. Energy that should be spent building a better future is wasted debating our case and demanding apologies.

But consider Joseph. His brothers had sold him into slavery, an act that was not only unjust but treacherously so. He might have spent the rest of his life looking for a chance to settle the score for this grievance, but instead he was eager to extend forgiveness as soon as possible. What can we learn from him?

To Forgive Others, We Don't Have To Wait Until They Seek Our Forgiveness. When Joseph forgave his brothers, they had done little to show that their sorrow was of a godly sort, and they certainly had not asked for his forgiveness. Yet Joseph saw the wisdom of extending his forgiveness unilaterally and unconditionally.

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

John & Phyllis are still in the hospital with covid. Phyllis is having a more difficult time than John, but both are some better.

Adene Gray is wearing a heart monitor until her Dr visit on Tuesday.

Joyce Venable has had a difficult week.

John & Betty are in isolation still.

Tonight we start in 1Samuel 17:31.

Wednesday at 7 pm in Galatians 4:21.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

To Forgive Others, We Don't Have To Wait Until They Have Received God's Forgiveness. Our forgiveness and God's forgiveness are two different things. To open the path to progress in our own lives, we may need to go ahead and forgive someone as Joseph did. God's forgiveness, however, has some conditions attached to it, and two of these are godly sorrow and repentance (**2Corinthians 7:8-10**). It may be a long time after we have forgiven someone before they seek God's forgiveness and receive it on His terms. During this time, we can release the part of the debt that is owed to us. We can simply turn the matter over to God, to be dealt with in His time (**1Peter 4:19**). He can be counted on to do what is perfectly right.

Granted, there are times when it's wise to await the other person's repentance before God (**Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 15:11-32**), but even in these instances we can still let go of ill will and focus on reaching forward. When it comes to crooked things, it's a lot easier to straighten out those in the future than those in the past.

"It is the act of forgiveness that opens up the only possible way to think creatively about the future at all" (Desmond Wilson).

("But they must repent before there can be forgiveness." This is the response I often hear when the teaching in articles like this one is offered. One thing we need to remember is that there are a number of things involved and associated with forgiveness. Brother Henry mentions one as he writes of the difference between our forgiveness and God's. To be free from sin one must repent and seek forgiveness. There is no other way to be cleansed in the sight of God.

What articles like this are addressing is my attitude toward one who has wronged me. While that wrong will not be set right until they repent, that does not mean that I have to carry a burden of hurt and/or revenge until they do so. I can let go of those things and be better able to move ahead in life. I am convinced this is what Joseph was able to do early in his life after his brothers wronged him. Releasing that burden, even though his brothers were not aware, allowed him to accomplish God's Work. DLH)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

