

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

Victory Through LOVE June 11, 2019 Carolyn Lambreth

Forgiveness doesn't mean that all the hurt of pain is gone, it sometimes takes time. Forgiveness means you've made a choice to forgive, to let go of anger, resentment, or the idea of getting even.

If you've been hurt, the pains exist. The poison can ruin our life and our Joy. But GOD has a solution – Grace, Forgive.



Victory Through LOVE

Love is deep, enduring concern for others welfare, affection and friendship.

John 16.27

²⁷ For the Father himself loves you because you have loved me, and have believed that I come forth from GOD.

John 15.9

⁹ As the Father loved me, I also loved you (Detroit); abide in my love.

Genesis 37.3 (KJV)

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

The coat for Joseph was design for showing special favor or relationship. The robe was very long sleeved – a richly ornamented coat.

Genesis 37.4 (KJV)

⁴ And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Joseph had two dreams that angered his brothers. One was that they would bow down to him, so his brothers plotted against him.

GOD doesn't keep us immune from trouble; GOD will be with us in trouble. And his brothers threw him in an empty well and later sold him as a slave to some traveling Midianites, putting animal blood on the robe to make the father believe he was killed by wild animals.

Romans 8.35 (KJV)

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Joseph was taken to Egypt and sold to Potiphar as a household slave; Joseph was later falsely accused of attempting to rape Pharaoh's wife and was thrown into prison.



While in prison Joseph accurately interprets the dreams of two of Pharaoh's servants, who were also incarcerated. Pharaoh later had a disturbing dream that no one could interpret. One of the servants who Joseph had helped suggested to Pharaoh that Joseph could interpret dreams in such a powerful way that he was release from prison an appointed second in command over Egypt.

Pharaoh's dream predicted seven years of famine. During the famine, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food. They didn't recognize Joseph, now 20 years older. When Joseph recognized them, his heart was filled with compassion at the sight of his brothers that he loved so dearly.



Joseph treated them harshly, pretending that he thought they were spies. Joseph's brothers didn't know how much they were loved until GOD used a crisis to reveal it to them. GOD sent Joseph's brothers to get a revelation of love, mercy, pardon, and restoration. They didn't deserve anything but they received grace.

JESUS died on the cross for us, so we would be redeemed by the Blood.

Joseph kept one brother in prison until the other brothers brought their youngest brother Benjamin back to Egypt to prove they weren't spies. Love is spontaneous but has to be maintained by discipline. They brought Benjamin with them and after a series of twists that included his brothers bowing down before him (just like he predicted in the dream).

The message of the cross of Christ is unconditional love (Detroit) and GOD showed this truth through Joseph.

In fulfillment of Joseph's dream, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers. They were shocked, but glad to be reunited. Joseph sent word for the entire family to join them in Egypt until after the famine.

When Jacob died, Joseph's brothers feared that Joseph would take revenge against them for their prior treatment of him. They came to Joseph and begged for his forgiveness, appealing to a request their father had made before he died.

Genesis 50.17-20 (NIV)

Joseph wept when he heard their appeal. Revenge was the last thing on his mind. ¹⁹ Joseph said to them "don't be afraid," am I in the place of GOD? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but GOD intended it for good, to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."



Joseph's story is the theme of forgiveness, brotherly love. We are called to forgive with compassion for others, that's GOD'S plan to help serve others through love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 tells us that love suffereth long, and is kind. Love is not premeditated, it is spontaneous, it bursts up into extraordinary ways. The pure characteristic of love is spontaneous.

We can rejoice in the fact that there is **Victory Through LOVE** because GOD is in us, He is with us always.

John 14:27 tells us that Holy Spirit can show us how to approach our accuser and see beyond hurtful words or actions.

Take the knife out, let the pain go. Let the wound heal, set the prisoner free and in the process you will set yourself free.

Victory Through LOVE

