

LOVED AND FORGIVEN

Loved and Forgiven #4

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Woodland Church

Sunday, April 25, 2021

“But now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,” they said. So they sent this message to Joseph: “Before your father died, he instructed us to say to you: ‘Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.’ So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin.” When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said. But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.”
(Genesis 50:15–21, NLT)

Confess who I am and who Jesus is!

“Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?” (Genesis 50:19, NLT)

“Be still, and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10, NLT)

1. Guilt becomes my jailer.

“But now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,” they said.” (Genesis 50:15, NLT)

“So they sent this message to Joseph: “Before your father died, he instructed us to say to you: ‘Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.’ So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin.” (Genesis 50:16–17, NLT)

A. Guilt is learned.

B. Guilt is real.

C. God’s forgiveness frees me from my guilt.

“Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.” And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Interlude” (Psalm 32:5, NLT)

“But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!” (1 Corinthians 15:57, Message)

2. My freedom increases as I draw nearer to God.

“When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept.” (Genesis 50:16–17, NLT)

“God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17, NLT)

“He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.” (Psalm 103:3, NLT)

“So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” (Hebrews 4:16, NLT)

Christians and Pagans

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

All go to God in their distress,
Seek help and pray for bread and happiness,
Deliverance from pain, guilt, and death.
All do, Christians and others.

All go to God in His distress,
Find him poor, reviled without shelter or bread,
Watch him tormented by sin, weakness, and death.
Christians stand by God in His agony.

God goes to all in their distress,
Satisfies body and soul with His bread,
Dies, crucified for all, Christians, and others,
And both alike forgiving.

3. I know when life is not working, God is!

“God intended it all for good.” (Genesis 50:20, NLT)

“He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.”
(Genesis 50:20, NLT)

4. I will reflect the love of God.

“No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.”
So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.” (Genesis 50:21, NLT)