

08/16/20

Genesis 45:1-15

Title: The Joy of Reconciliation.

Introduction: Today, the story of Joseph is going to teach us something about forgiveness and reconciliation. This is a long story that can make a sermon series, but we are going to cover it in one day. The story covers 14 chapters in the book of Genesis.



Two steps toward reconciliation:

1. Turn away from revenge: This may sound easy, but in reality, it's not easy. Our natural temptation is always to hurt the one who hurt us. There is that great verse that says, "Vengeance belongs to God and God alone" (Romans 12:19, Deuteronomy 32:35).

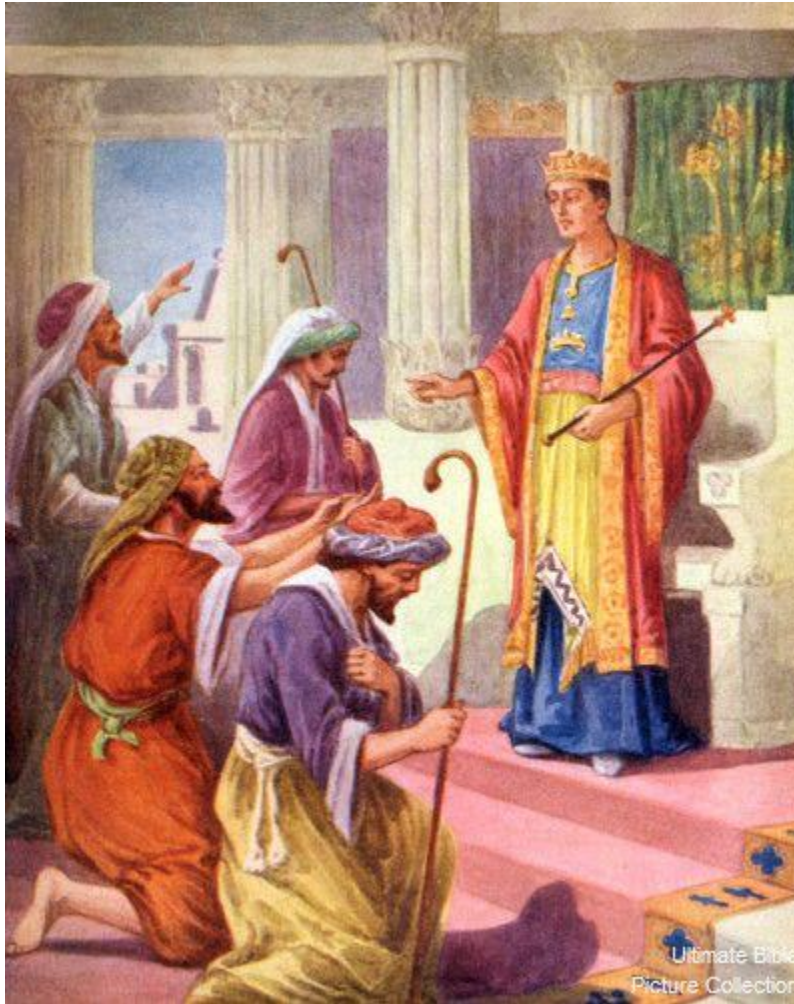
Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers didn't happen overnight. It took several years, and the story is captured in Genesis chapter 42-45.



In chapter 42, when Joseph heard the admission of their brothers' guilt, Joseph could tell God was working in their lives and he started crying. His broken heart gives us a clue that he desired a reconciliation over a revenge.

In the first step toward reconciliation, we can learn that Joseph didn't forgive overnight. Sometimes deep wounds take time to heal. And Joseph didn't offer quick reconciliation either. On the journey towards reconciliation. We need to turn away from revenge.

2. Test for repentance: Chapter 42-44 records two years of testing, where Joseph sought to find out whether his brothers had matured spiritually in the last 22 years, he had not seen them.



Conclusion: Because we have been reconciled with God, we also ought to offer reconciliation to those who have betrayed us. As we turn away from revenge, test for repentance, and trust in God's sovereignty, God will help us and we will experience the joy of reconciliation.