

NO, YOU CAN'T PT. 3

Genesis 50:15-18



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“We fear men so much, because we fear God so little. One fear cures another. When man’s terror scares you, turn your thoughts to the wrath of God.”

William Gurnall, A Puritan Golden Treasury

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31 “So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. **32** “Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘**You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.** **33** ‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ **34** “And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. **35** “**My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”**

Matthew 18:31–35

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You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.

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You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.

I. Sin's Brokenness Runs Deeper than You Know vv. 15-18

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You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.

- I. Sin's Brokenness Runs Deeper than You Know vv. 15-18**
 - A. You Can't Do What You Want To Do. v. 15**

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- I. Sin's Brokenness Runs Deeper than You Know vv. 15-18**
 - A. You Can't Do What You Want To Do. v. 15**
 - B. You Can't Restore Relationships vv. 16-18**

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The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

1. Seek Forgiveness

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The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

- 1. Seek Forgiveness**
- 2. Prepare the Way by Giving Time to Process**

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The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

- 1. Seek Forgiveness**
- 2. Prepare the Way by Giving Time to Process**
- 3. Appeal to Source They Love, Honor, or Respect**

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The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

- 1. Seek Forgiveness**
- 2. Prepare the Way by Giving Time to Process**
- 3. Appeal to Source They Love, Honor, or Respect**
- 4. Own Wrong Actions**

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The Brother's Gameplan for Release from their Sin

- 1. Seek Forgiveness**
- 2. Prepare the Way by Giving Time to Process**
- 3. Appeal to Source They Love, Honor, or Respect**
- 4. Own Wrong Actions**
- 5. Appeal to Common Identity**

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You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.

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You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You. There is a Remedy, and it is both Personal and Transcendent.

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- I. Sin's Brokenness Runs Deeper than You Know vv. 15-18**
 - A. You Can't Do What You Want To Do. v. 15**
 - B. You Can't Restore Relationships vv. 16-18**
- II. God's Restoration is More Complete than You Could Imagine. vv. 19-21**

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- I. Sin's Brokenness Runs Deeper than You Know vv. 15-18**
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“Don’t buy the lie that cultivating condemnation and wallowing in your shame is somehow pleasing to God, or that a constant, low-grade guilt will somehow promote holiness and spiritual maturity. It’s just the opposite! God is glorified when we believe with all our hearts that those who trust in Christ can never be condemned. It’s only when we receive his free gift of grace and live in the good of total forgiveness that we’re able to turn from old, sinful ways of living and walk in grace-motivated obedience.” C J Mahaney

The Cross-Centered Life

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“He who dares to face his Maker will not tremble before the sons of men.”

C H Spurgeon, Treasury of David Ps. 4:1

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Then they said to one another, “Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us.” 22 Reuben answered them, saying, “Did I not tell you, ‘Do not sin against the boy’; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood.”

Genesis 42:21–22

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The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. 3 Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and how the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Genesis 39:2-3

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“There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?”

Genesis 39:9

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Then they said to him, “We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it.” Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me, please.”

Genesis 40:8

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“Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house. 15 “For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon.”

Genesis 40:14–15

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“Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house. 15 “For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon.” Genesis 40:14–15

**Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.
Genesis 40:23**

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Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” 16 Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”
Genesis 41:15–16

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for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, **your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf.** 8 Then his brothers said to him, **“Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?”** So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. 9 Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, **“Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”** 10 He related it to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, **“What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?”** 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind. **Genesis 37:7-11**

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Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

Romans 12:19

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GENESIS 50:15-18

Applying God's Transcendent Place to Injustice:

- 1. God's Word enables not to let go of justice, but to yield to a higher justice.**

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“Forgiving costs us our sense of justice. We all have this innate sense deep within our souls, but it has been perverted by our selfish sinful natures. We want to see “justice” done, but the justice we envision satisfies our own interests. We must realize that justice has been done. God is the only rightful administrator of justice in all of creation, and His justice has been satisfied. **In order to forgive our brother, we must be satisfied with God’s justice and forego the satisfaction of our own.”**

Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*

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Applying God's Transcendent Place to Injustice:

- 1. God's Word enables not to let go of justice, but to yield to a higher justice.**
- 2. Failure to forgive by yielding to God's justice puts you in God's place.**

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“Those who persist in harboring an unforgiving spirit toward others who have wronged them are guilty of not believing God’s promise to see to matters Himself (Rom. 12:19).

Daniel Fuller, *The Unity of the Bible*

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Applying God's Transcendent Place to Injustice:

- 1. God's Word enables not to let go of justice, but to yield to a higher justice.**
- 2. Failure to forgive by yielding to God's justice puts you in God's place.**
- 3. The Gospel gives what is necessary to live known for a forgiving spirit rather than for injustice.**

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Forgiveness is not the stuff of an extraordinary saint. Forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel and therefore is to be a defining characteristic of every believer.

Dave Harvey, *When Sinners say, "I Do"*

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“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 2:20

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By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

Hebrews 11:22

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Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister; and she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I die.” 2 Then Jacob’s anger burned against Rachel, and he said, “Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?”

Genesis 30:1–2

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 - A. You Can't Do What You Want To Do. v. 15**
 - B. You Can't Restore Relationships vv. 16-18**
- II. God's Restoration is More Complete than You Could Imagine. vv. 19-21**
 - A. It Starts by Establishing Transcendent Order v. 19**
 - B. It Includes Learning About God's Character v. 20**

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 - 1. Worship God's Power**

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 - B. It Includes Learning About God's Character v. 20**
 - 1. Worship God's Power**
 - 2. Worship God's Providence**

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 - B. It Includes Learning About God's Character v. 20**
 - 1. Worship God's Power**
 - 2. Worship God's Providence**
 - C. It Lives with Freedom to Serve v. 21**

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You Can't! But God Can!

No, You Can't Pt. 3

Genesis 50:15-21, Sunday AM, September 4, 2022

Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 50:14-21 After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. 15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" 16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, 17 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?" 20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. 21 "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

So here it is. For three weeks we've anticipated these amazing statements from Joseph exhibiting complete forgiveness. But first we had to look at the situation from below. Justice looms large. Wrong! Guilty! These words make other words seem so cheap. Tears and attempts to make it right also seem to fall short as the weight of the wrong overwhelms. It's easy to be hardened, not only toward those who have wronged you, but toward others doing wrong. It's easy to forget your own wrongs and judge others by your own standard, letting their wrongs eclipse yours. I don't care about them. They made their own bed. I don't have to have to like you or deal with you. This view from below leaves the brothers in turmoil as they can't imagine justice/forgiveness handled differently. But God has already been working in both the brothers and in Joseph so that these words of Joseph before humbled and repentant brothers are a living example of God's Powerful Providence. **Am I in the place of God? You meant it for evil, God meant for good.** He then comforts and provides for them. Hope in this passage lies not with Joseph, but with God of whom Joseph is a dim reflection. Look to God who alone can bring both eternal justice and reconciliation and praise Him! The words of this hymn describe the God of the Bible and how we should respond to His Powerful Providence. Sing and worship!

*Hymn #20: All People That on Earth Do Dwell

You may be seated. But how do you head in the right direction if don't "feel this," "see this," if NOT solid hope in God's Powerful Providence? What does it look like moment by moment? The past two weeks, we sang from above, and preached from below. Today, we are going to sing couple of songs from below and then preach from above. When Tim teaches/preaches, you hear cultural references with which some of you relate. My father deals with part of the culture that for most of us, is past. You will understand him more if you understood the world he lived in. I grew up largely in a strong Christian subculture, and a large part of that culture was the Christian music culture--from the hymnbook to the praise choruses, folk, and soft rock of the Jesus music days--from the formal, trained voices to the "down where we live" southern gospel music. To appreciate the songs was to get to know the sometimes very messy lives of the singers as they sang their hopes and fears--the struggles of faith from below. We relate to this--hence much of the "Christian music"/secular speaks of our experience and response. However, it is dangerous to sing mostly from below as the Christian's hope lies not with relating to what we see/feel, but with knowing who God is and what He says we should do and feel. But for today, I want you to look first to a couple with very checkered lives even w their professed "God" moments (Marijohn Wilkin/Kris Kristofferson). Marijohn grew up in the church. Very musical after father who played/led music in church, by 5 could play by ear. Father died when 17, went to college, excelled, married, 3yrs later, husband died in WWII, moved to Nashville, took off in country world writing songs, remarried/son, fame, stopped church, alcohol, tried suicide number of times. Though famous, at end of rope, "I stopped by a small church and asked a young minister if I could talk with him. I found out later that I was the first person he had counseled. I drove up in my new, midnight blue Cadillac, dressed in a full-length mink coat with sparkling jewelry and my cowboy boots. I said, 'I have all kinds of problems.' He looked at me and said, 'You look like you don't have any financial problems.' I answered, 'No, I don't.' He said, 'You look pretty healthy.' I said, 'Well, I guess I am.' He then asked, 'What is your main problem?' I said, 'I don't know.' He didn't seem to know what more to say to me. "At that point in our conversation, he said a funny thing, but it was okay, because it worked. He asked, 'Did you ever think about thanking God for your problems?' (Ephesians 5:20). I left his office and drove back home. "When I reached the house, I found it was empty, and I was glad. I sat down at the piano and began to play and sing--out loud--the entire chorus to 'One Day at a Time.' It just dropped into my heart. And when I had finished singing, my 'Nashville mind' said, 'That's a hit!' That was the first thing that popped into my head. I then recognized that the song was a prayer--and I got some relief. "I wrote the chorus on the back of an envelope as fast as I could write. I then continued to sing, 'Do You remember when You walked among men? Well, Jesus, You know, if You're looking below, it's worse now than then.' I wasn't quite sure the Lord knew where I was. I'd never quit believing in Him, but I was in Nashville and God was in heaven, and never the twain shall meet. I really didn't know if God actually knew where I was. I realize that some don't believe that, but that was where I was at the time. "The following morning, my mind went back to the song. I had the second verse and the chorus, but somehow I couldn't get the song started properly. Kris Kristofferson and Rita Coolidge, who were married at the time, were in town. They had just had a huge hit, 'Why Me, Lord?' written by Kris. I called Kris and asked him to help me with the first verse. "When I showed him how I started the song, 'I'm just a mortal . . .' he looked at me and said, 'Why don't you say, "I'm only human, I'm just a man . . ." I said, 'That's good! That's what I need.' We finished the first verse in about twenty minutes. The lines just flew out from each of us." Stories Behind 50 Southern Gospel

Favorites © 2005 by Lindsay Terry. Published by Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, MI. This was her most recorded song and resonated with so many. **One of the reasons we sin by doubting God's Powerful Providence is because the future seems to hold too many things that seem undesirable.**

unlivable, making us long for the past, dread the future, and NOT trust God in the present. While some of these words need theological refinement, there is a clear reference to the mindset of Matthew 6—why do you worry about tomorrow? Each day has enough trouble of its own. So seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness. Ask God for faith for the next moments. (fill in women/man)

***Hymn (Powerpoint): One Day at a Time**

From a much more evangelical background, Evie, the short girl w blond hair and big smile made a big impact on me with a number of songs including her version of this one. If you are to remain in your place under God, you must not only live moment by moment trusting Him, but you must entrust the final outcome of all on your mind to Him. There is coming a day when it will all be made right, but that is not now. For now, we must give it all to the One who is Just and Good.

***Hymn (Powerpoint): Give Them All to Jesus** ***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D** **Scripture: Colossians 3:1–17** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³ For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. ⁵ Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, ¹⁰ and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—¹¹ a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. ¹² So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Offering: *Doxology:

For you have died and your life is hid w Christ in God. What does this mean? It means if you are truly born again, you not only are not God’s enemy, but the life Christ lived, died, and rose again for you to have brings you into fellowship with Him. Christ LIVES in you. This frees you from what Paul Tripp calls the small kingdom of self, filled with earth bound pleasures and anxiety bound needs. Instead, life in Christ with God is lived in His larger kingdom, a transcendent one calling for very real attitudes and actions toward others stemming from God’s Word dwelling in you richly. It leads to not only obedience to God’s commands, but gratitude to God and a future hope when you will one day be with Him face to face and all will be made right. Those who trust God’s Word can endure any injustice, broken relationship, or fear because they trust God’s word for holy justice, holy reconciliation, and true peace one day in the presence of God. THIS is the hope of the believer. Thessalonians tells us to comfort one another (encourage one another) with these words.

***Hymn #149 (Red): When We See Christ**

Message: No, You Can’t Pt. 3 Genesis 50:15-21

We preached from above—sing from above—THIS is your hope—dependence on God who CAN!

***Hymn #292: God of Grace and God of Glory** ***Prayer**

No, You Can't Pt. 3

Genesis 50:15-21 CBC, Sunday AM, September 4, 2022

Intro: Where do you go to fix it? Trustworthy? Reliable? [Driving to America Meineke youtube](#); guess that solves it; Started from below, fixing broken bones to fixing Russia/Ukraine—fears, complexities, unknowns—strong opinions on what should do, but unable to control all variables; then started from above—bulletin quote said, [“We fear men so much, because we fear God so little. One fear cures another. When man’s terror scares you, turn your thoughts to the wrath of God.”](#) William Gurnall, *A Puritan Golden Treasury*, Thomas, p. 108 The wrath of God?! not where we think of for hope—think on forgiveness, want it, but are you okay with God’s perspective regarding forgiveness? [Matt. 18:31-35](#) sobering passage; should make uncomfortable as recognize no way to be in fellowship with God without being led to show mercy of Father even in judgment against wrongs committed; [perhaps don’t want to deal with God if it has to be this way](#); think I’ll stay below; okay, how do you handle injustice?

Rights/wrongs; [can you see beyond rights and wrongs to value of people committing them, enough to want to be w them?](#) Are they people or just right/wrong? [“Can We Talk?” World 4/9/22 MADA—Make America Dinner Again, etc.](#); touchy, seems easier to retreat to family; wait, injustice/reconciliation often messy there as well; but you can’t get away from either of them AND you are responsible, [You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.](#) why? b/c

I. [Sin’s Brokenness Runs Deeper than you Know vv. 15-18](#)

[vv. 14-15](#) grief/tired from extra in schedule to fears; real fear not Joseph, but their actions though years to justify (favoritism, unloved, judged w inability to gain trust); even though didn’t follow through and kill brother, FILLED w old terrors; (consumed thought, sleep, conversation, relationships); lived with for some 39 years; life went on after act, living in deception with father and everyone who asked about brother; [married, children; greatest fear secret coming out](#); IT DID, sick, NOW will be judged; roughed up a bit, understandable when found out who he was; but then he protected, lavished care on them; going from famine to top of what Egypt had couldn’t be better; 17 years of it, [but act still there](#); can’t think of brother being at top w/o thinking about how he got there; [now](#), Jacob loved, respected by Joseph dead; What if only good to us b/c of him? fears once again brought to surface showing

A. [You can’t Do What you Want. v. 15](#)

Understood how they felt, but try to live it; unlivable, nothing they/Joseph did could free them, torn apart by guilt, fear of consequences, inability to live w uncertainty of dark future; [Why? Justice runs deeper than their justifications; Injustice Screams to Be Made Right](#); b/c looked from below, living inside OWN judgments about sin/consequences, how others would handle it, were left to own devices/schemes, desperately doing all in power to protect from their reality; [not only doing what want unlivable](#), but while you should/seek to right wrongs and bring peace to conflict,

B. [You can’t Restore Relationships vv. 16-18](#)

launched best plan, [vv. 16-18](#) [1. Seek forgiveness](#), we did wrong; too big for us, need advocate/help, don’t ask for what deserve, ask for mercy, release, something restored; [2. Prepare the Way by giving Time to Process](#)—either one, all, or perhaps messenger [3. Appeal to Source They Love, Honor, or Respect](#) Dad said (whether did or not, fears made stretch truth b/c Joseph loved, honored, respected, obeyed father) [4. Own Wrong Actions](#) impressively no excuses—just WRONG; Wenham notes use 3 of 4 main OT terms for wicked deeds (taking full responsibility), Finally, [5. Appealed to Common Identity](#) WHO did this crime? [Your brothers](#), though sought to disown you, ARE flesh/blood ([your father 2x](#), he is OUR father), but greater [servants of the God of your father](#). father you respect, HE servant of this God, God of your grandfather, great-grandfather; we, too His servants; HE with HIS justice hasn’t killed us, let us live; is He YOUR God? Is He Your Master? than as His representative, [be like Him Wenham, p. 490](#) gave their best shot, then waited in suspense; [hardest to wait](#)—imagine worst, slaves, prison, execution? [And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.](#) wept? Shocked after fears; Relief! What do w tears? Don’t know, but perhaps NOT die, NOT prison; next response, [¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.”](#) Place of utter submission; utter debt—our lives are yours! [But why would one treated almost as a god in Egypt who had been so wronged by these despised shepherds not treat them as their sins deserved?](#) For the same reason we rearranged the steps of the brothers plan to START with their final step—[all hope from below is transient](#); [You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.](#) However, [There IS a remedy, and it is both Personal and Transcendent.](#) And so, w brothers at his feet, we move to our second point

II. [God’s Restoration is More Complete Than You Could Imagine. vv. 19-21](#)

A. [It Starts by Establishing Transcendent Order v. 19](#)

Both sides needed strengthening of place of God's Word; brothers drowning b/c couldn't accept Joseph's words of justice/forgiveness/reconciliation BECAUSE couldn't accept God's words of justice/forgiveness/reconciliation w or w/o consequences, wallowing in self-judgment CJ Mahaney The Cross Centered Life, 2002, p. 39-40 notes, "Don't buy the lie that cultivating condemnation and wallowing in your shame is somehow pleasing to God, or that a constant, low-grade guilt will somehow promote holiness and spiritual maturity. It's just the opposite! God is glorified when we believe with all our hearts that those who trust in Christ can never be condemned. It's only when we receive his free gift of grace and live in the good of total forgiveness that we're able to turn from old, sinful ways of living and walk in grace-motivated obedience." IF brothers word final, God only to be feared for judgment; if Joseph trusted his word/only saw God through that lens, then bitter, resentful; not a God who can/will be worshipped; C H Spurgeon, Treasury of David, Commentary for Psalm 4:1 He who dares to face his Maker will not tremble before the sons of men." Joseph DID face Maker, therefore, brothers—it's time to testify! can't make you understand, trust my words, actions, but I CAN tell why you are all misguided even though you ARE right that YOU are wrong!¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? Speaks not just to their posture, but to what drove that posture; Do not be afraid (said same in 45:5-11 when first revealed); your fears must stop—why? groundless, not based on reality WHY? God—yes, we too are servants of your father's God—yes, He saved your life, He judged us w pain and famine and . . . Yes, God have mercy; STOP!!!! Am I in the place of God? Why am I weeping? Yes, 1. b/c of my father & his care for us all, 2. Yes b/c I care for you as I've tried best for past 17 years 3. Yes, b/c you fully admitted your sin and asked forgiveness, but still so paralyzed by fear, but also 4. Because I AM NOT GOD! STOP treating me like I am! you DO have to deal w me, there IS brokenness; YOU need to be repentant, but you are only thinking about me in light of you/your pain; AND you are only thinking about God in terms of judgment you rightly deserve; think about God through my eyes; you think it is bad to be guilty? Get in MY shoes; you heard me crying when threw in pit, Gen. 42:21-22 crying when dragged me up, when sold me & they grabbed me; more than just pain of what you did; how do I process it? NOT just your wrong, set off whole bunch of emotions, questions that needed untangling; Where is love, safety, future? all my faithfulness, trying to obey, being object of his love/care, feeling safe NOT ENOUGH; I couldn't breathe! Yes, injustice, but felt power of all these effects suck life; I needed way to live; where go w fear, uncertainty? God seemed silent! Then standing on slave block--what do I feel, hope for, how process? how do I pray? Hands all over me like I was an animal—God seemed silent; but I kept crying out to Him (so engrained from father, from childhood; from stories of His faithfulness to forefathers; unanswered questions, but He still there; over); and though it must have seen foolish to Egyptians for me to follow a god who allowed this to happen to me, I spoke of God to Potiphar Gen. 39:2-3, God blessed--injustice didn't end life, there was more; but then I refused Potiphar's wife to honor God? Gen. 39:9 she screamed, lied, slandered, should I be thankful that Potiphar didn't kill me? Was THAT JUSTICE? So twisted; Your wrong wasn't on my mind then—where was dad, God to right that wrong right then? though my head/heart reeling, kept looking up & doing next right thing—though wrongs not righted then, there was more to be considered than right/wrong I saw! God gave favor w jailer as I sought to honor God, worked hard to make jail prosper; then 2 of Potiphar's highest came—dream; Gen. 40:8 asked God for interpretation—HE GAVE IT; so relieved, though one would die—asked other for justice b/r Pharaoh Gen. 40:14-15, grateful, thought he would, but Gen. 40:23; where do I go w another injustice! 2 more years! And all you can think about is how I will handle YOURS? But while I cried for justice, wondered, questioned, there was more to do (light to Gentiles, live b/r God, people to care for, a work); then cupbearer remembered me when Pharaoh had dream—should I be quiet about God b/r Pharaoh just because of seeming silence regarding injustices? NO! Gen. 41:15-16, God gave interpretation, and do I say Pharaoh raised me up? God raised me up; Can't you see? He is SO much bigger than me, Look at you at my feet—proves His Word! Remember crazy dreams? Gen. 37:7-11, Gen. 41:40-43, 42:5-6 (look, doing it again!), took Simeon, get Benjamin, come back, give back Simeon 43:26-28 (on ground again, even Benjamin bows), 44:12-14, now, 50:18 on ground again; I needed solid word b/c even father's word to care, protect, love not strong enough; Potiphar's word, butler's word, even Pharaoh's word all not strong, good enough, definitely not MY word—but life in God's Word; He has been w me; He is here NOW, Waltke—dramatic arc over story beginning w Gen. 37, those who sold Joseph into slavery offer themselves as slaves; look at power of God's Word! NOT only bowing, but total opposite of attitude had when Joseph gave the dreams to them years ago; Bush, they have been "effectually subdued and humbled," w ease, God brings down the high and lifts up the lowly; from this perspective, makes complete sense, Am I in the place of God? NOT from below, no more trusting just meine key to Meineke, but Mein Herz to Herrn Gott (my heart to Lord God), One greater than I (transcendent) HIS WORD is FINAL b/c ALWAYS TRUSTWORTHY; now, when comes to your wrongs & making right? I have a word, but I yield to the One whose Word is greater than mine, and He said, Rom.

12:19; means whatever place I have in righting wrongs, I do it as a servant of God, He is greater/chief avenger Bush, p. 428 More to consider than my honor disregarded, my life harmed; that included in His world, but MORE, starting w His honor, His world; His justice complete! (holy, transcendent) (Tim's example of Nabal being one judged at end, NOT all of David's men, NOT all of Nabal's household); think on it, brothers--If MY word final, if I center/not God, could make full insult of these crimes against me alone—my world would include less and less as injustices pile up—would have been full of self-pity, bitterness, not trusting others, not caring, living own life at best, either isolated following own dreams OR demanding, cynical, I shudder at how I would have used any influence/power in Potiphar's house, prison, over Egypt if I hadn't yielded to God's Word as final; B/c it is do not be afraid! Amazing! Note, 1. God's Word enables not to let go of justice, but to yield to a higher justice must let go of something, Jerry Bridges, bulletin "Forgiving costs us our sense of justice. We all have this innate sense deep within our souls, but it has been perverted by our selfish sinful natures. We want to see "justice" done, but the justice we envision satisfies our own interests. We must realize that justice has been done. God is the only rightful administrator of justice in all of creation, and His justice has been satisfied. In order to forgive our brother, we must be satisfied with God's justice and forego the satisfaction of our own." The Practice of Godliness, NavPress, 1996, p. 207-208. Are you satisfied w God's justice? Does it show in how you handle real or imagined

injustices against you/others? 2. Failure to forgive by yielding to God's Justice puts you in God's place. Daniel Fuller, "Those who persist in harboring an unforgiving spirit toward others who have wronged them are guilty of not believing God's promise to see to matters Himself (Rom. 12:19). The Unity of the Bible, p. 288. unforgiving spirit shows YOU are the final word, final determiner of justice, hence taking God's place; this why Matt. 18 full vengeance on you if don't forgive brother from heart; you NOT transformed, have NOT yielded to God, taking His place, still object of His wrath; 3. The Gospel gives what is necessary to live known for a forgiving spirit rather than for injustice. Dave Harvey Forgiveness is not the stuff of an extraordinary saint. Forgiveness is at the heart of the Gospel and therefore is to be a defining characteristic of every believer When Sinners say, "I Do," p. 110. why? b/c recognize position before God; Rom. 1:18-2:5, Rom. 3:9-12, 23—also, trust that His justice not twisted to bring us to God—satisfied; Rom. 3:24-26; How does this live? Joseph forced through life's circumstances to look beyond himself to God; Gal. 2:20, Col. 3:1-17 (life hid w Christ, looking for His return, lives to glory of God w specific attitudes toward others; means with them, working through—heart open/toward/forgiving—all to glory of God); desire for justice/reconciliation includes rethinking your innocence, praying for God to work in other party, that you would be ready if He allows; free to live for God on display b/r world/serve/care while wait; for Joseph to live this way, had to release his hold on past, future so free to trust in present (one day at a time), then when time came to die, found hope not in his life, work, Egypt, but in God of promise Heb. 11:22; Does God have this place/give this perspective in your brokenness? Sometimes say in exasperation ie. Gen. 30:1-2, mess, but must see beyond wife/parent/boss wrongs or will be victim of them; Problem w black lives matter, intersectionality, critical race theory—much to understand, long history that someone will be glad to school you in—but when all done—WILL IT EVER BE ENOUGH? Will you be able to see people as more than just a collection of their wrong deeds; You don't need to have it figured out; do perfectly—but what is proof that God's Word Final, giving hope, patience, order, life; God worked this deep in Joseph's heart, therefore he is free to be Waltke, God's instrument, NOT surrogate (replacement); DON'T be afraid; but now that I'm not greater than God, Joseph continues, look at God for God; not just transcendent, but personal

B. It Includes Learning About God's Character v. 20

²⁰ "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. Once have v. 19, v. 20 makes sense—God's Word final, so can see trajectory of His Good promises w/o losing them in our perspective from below

1. Worship God's Power

Not only did He MEAN it for good, He was stronger than what YOU meant, what Potiphar/wife, cupbearers dishonor by forgetting—He made that evil submit

2. Worship God's Providence

Not only did He MEAN it for good—it WAS good—look at this present result—according to HIS WORD—He preserved many people alive!

C. It Lives with Freedom to Serve v. 21

²¹ "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. THIS true test of forgiveness—when can liberally do good to those who have persecuted you; right about now, you are saying, what just happened? we conclude for today w one verse b/c can't do justice to these two powerful

verses; (my wife not surprised, you, but I was) I would like to keep going, but excited to hear from Pastor Jahn and Acts/Malachi again as I fulfill my other responsibilities in this body of believers

Conclusion: but what do we have so far? Took us 3 weeks to get here, but deeper look at justice, then relationships involved w injustices and the complexities of forgiveness and reconciliation showed that **You Must, You Will, but the Remedy is Not With You.** too many pieces even when try, care that are outside your power to fully control w true justice, forgiveness, and reconciliation; Today, turned the corner, start looking at God in way that not just one call to and He doesn't do anything—little grumpy w Him; that is looking at GOD from below—for you, from your perspective; However, **There IS a remedy, and it is both Personal and Transcendent.** NO YOU CAN'T, But God can!!!! Must release hold on what justice/reconciliation looks like and when it happens; **These God-glorifying words of Joseph did not just come from the goodness of his heart; they were birthed in him/formed in him through the WHOLE experience of past 39 years; DON'T waste the process of God transforming you;** Today, saw God who is SO HIGH, SO FAR above—who sees right & wrong with such a pure justice that we have no hope to be made right with Him apart from His work on our behalf; **but if He by Jesus, the final Word has brought hope for justice, satisfied His righteous wrath, and further, reconciled you to Himself to be His forever, then yield to this final Word;** then, like Joseph, under God, **you can LIVE now according to His Word and see pieces of Eden restored as God first transforms your heart and then uses you to display that increasingly God-glorifying heart to others;** Amen—May it be so!

Genesis 30:1–2 Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister; and she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or else I die.”² Then Jacob’s anger burned against Rachel, and he said, “Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?”

Genesis 37:7–11 for behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf rose up and also stood erect; and behold, your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf.”⁸ Then his brothers said to him, “Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.⁹ Now he had still another dream, and related it to his brothers, and said, “Lo, I have had still another dream; and behold, the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”¹⁰ He related *it* to his father and to his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have had? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow ourselves down before you to the ground?”¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying *in mind*.

Genesis 39:2–3 The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.³ Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and *how* the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.

Genesis 39:9 “There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?”

Genesis 40:8 Then they said to him, “We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it.” Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell *it* to me, please.”

Genesis 40:14–15 “Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house.¹⁵ “For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon.”

Genesis 40:23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Genesis 41:15–16 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.”¹⁶ Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

Genesis 42:21–24 Then they said to one another, “Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us.”²² Reuben answered them, saying, “Did I not tell you, ‘Do not sin against the boy’; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood.”²³ They did not know, however, that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them.²⁴ He turned away from them and wept. But when he returned to them and spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

Matthew 18:31–35 “So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.³² “Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.³³ ‘Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’³⁴ “And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.³⁵ “My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”

Romans 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Hebrews 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.