

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

August 20, 2012

I Forgive You

GENESIS 50:19-21 NKJV – (19) Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? **(20)** But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. **(21)** Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

This amazing story of forgiveness concludes with these words from Joseph to his brothers in the scripture above.

The 11th son born to Jacob was Joseph. God revealed His plan for the life of Joseph when he was still a young boy. Joseph excitedly talked with his brothers about God's plans. His brothers became jealous and eventually sold him into slavery while telling their father Jacob that his favorite son had been killed by a wild animal.

Joseph was bought by a man who eventually recognized Joseph's honesty. The man gave Joseph great freedom even though he was still a slave. Eventually Joseph was wrongly accused of a crime and ended up in prison. Joseph's integrity won him favor with the jail keepers and he became a guard over other prisoners. Through time God elevated Joseph to great power within the kingdom.

The brothers thought Joseph was dead. They did not suspect that the man they stood before was their own brother Joseph. When Joseph revealed himself, they were shocked to know he was alive. They even feared for years that he would seek revenge. After the family was reunited they lived together in Egypt. When their father passed away, the brothers began to fear even more that Joseph would finally show his hatred towards them (**Genesis 50:15**). Joseph was heartbroken when he learned they still did not trust him and that they feared what he would do to them (**Genesis 50:17**).

Joseph remained humble. Focused on an attitude that would please his heavenly Father and not the flesh. This was his choice and when he finally confronted his brothers, he spoke the above scripture. Jesus did the same to us despite all that we have done incorrect to Him. Jesus forgives and we should to.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 SAMUEL 9

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Hearts that love are always in bloom.

August 1, 2012

