

Discussion Questions

July 17, 2022



..BUT GOD

People Harm Us ... but GOD

1. Discuss the abuse and pain that Joseph faced. "Humanize" him. Try to describe what it would be like for a child to go through that and how that would have impacted his life.
2. Read Genesis 50:14-20. Discuss the significance of Joseph's response.
3. What understandings about God did Joseph need to have in order to respond this way?
4. In what ways does Joseph's response point to Jesus? What parallels are there in the story that were highlighted in the sermon?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Discuss how God uses His comfort in our lives to bless others.
6. If comfortable, can you share a story of how God has used a deeply painful experience in your past to enable you to bring life to others?



Genesis 50:15–20

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.

Genesis 37:4

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him ...

The point of the story is that God overcomes evil not merely by stopping it, which he does finally, but by so thwarting evil's destructive purposes, that even the evil is used to further the saving objectives of God. For if Joseph hadn't been betrayed, the family would not have been saved physically. The family would have killed him. Or spiritually, their sins would have killed him." That's radical. It's saying God doesn't just stop evil; he so completely frustrates it, so completely triumphs over it, that the destructive purposes of every evil act in the end only serve to accomplish the opposite of what they intended.

Tim Keller

Romans 8 :28,

WE KNOW, All things work together for Good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 1:3–5

God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.