



Sharing God's Abundance in Love!

CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.

Day 12—Thursday, January 18, 2018

Prayer Focus—Care Teams & Prayer Ministries

Abundant Grace

Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 45:1-6 (ESV)

Can you think of the biggest hurt you have ever suffered at the hands of another? It might have been last week, 2 years ago, or decades! Well that is where Joseph was when his own brothers sold him into slavery. Even worse, they did it out of jealousy that his own father loved him most. This by itself is enough to cause many to sympathize with him for any revenge he might take. But pay attention to what he said in verse 5, *and now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.*"

Wow! First he told his brothers not to be angry with themselves! He turned their trespass back on them. Often times, when a brother or sister causes us harm, the harm is a reflection of their heart and not ourselves. Joseph realizes that and gives them permission to forgive themselves. This is a form of grace many don't know. Many know that God forgives, but how many know to forgive themselves?

Next Joseph teaches us that all things are used by God for his amazing plan. Joseph calls out, in the malice of his brothers' heart, God saved an entire land of people from famine. Because Joseph was so in tune with our Father, he was able to offer even more grace to his brothers by sharing how their actions, while with bad intention, had a miraculous outcome. Joseph was able to do this, because instead of stewing in the past, he fixed his eyes on God. When we turn our focus from the wrong done to us, and onto the Father, we will have vision to see and take part in his divine purpose.

The next time someone causes us harm, let us look to the father and ask for his purpose in that situation. Then remember that the offender is the one in need of forgiving from you – and themselves.

Father, I ask for the strength to let go of my past hurts and to give them completely to you. I pray that you heal my wounds and give me the power to forgive my transgressors. You have forgiven me for my sins and as your follower I want to give that same grace. I also extend a petition to you to cover our care team. Fill them with your love that they would overflow and pour it out on others. Bless our prayer ministry also, that our time spent talking to you is pleasing to your ears and that we hear from you clearly. We lay ourselves at your feet. Thank you for being so gentle and gracious with us when we deserved death. You are an amazing father. Amen.

Matthew Wilson

