



Pastor Ken Studer

Sunday, August 17, 2008

Scripture Reading: Genesis 45:1-15

TODAY'S THOUGHT: *To forgive is to set a prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was YOU.* —Anonymous

The Bible reading for today is the most beautiful “reconciliation” story in all of Scripture, and certainly one of the best in all of literature. Period. It’s the well-known story of the reconciliation of Joseph with his brothers.

To understand how powerful this is, put yourself in Joseph’s situation. How would you react to your family members if their actions had been physically abusive, if they had conspired to kill you, if they had arranged for your capture and kidnapping and if, because of their actions, you had unjustly spent time in prison? Wouldn’t you spend some of that time in prison thinking about what you were going to do to your family when you got out? At the very least, wouldn’t you resolve to have nothing to do with them?

This is Joseph’s story. But he did not dwell on revenge. Instead, he gave himself faithfully to the ministry that had been put before him. And God wonderfully gave his family back to him. But, and this is a big but, the question is: “Will Joseph be willing to forgive his brothers?”

The answer to that question is in this scene described in the Genesis reading listed above. Joseph, who many Bible teachers see as a type of Christ, saw his brothers and revealed his identity to them and forgave them. And there was much weeping and rejoicing. By now, the brothers had regretted how they had treated their younger brother.

The key issue was Joseph’s willingness to forgive. Perhaps that is a key issue for us, too. Wouldn’t the world be just a little better place, if people were more willing to forgive? Would your “world” be a better place if you were willing to forgive? We lose nothing, but gain everything, by being willing to forgive.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, thank You for Your grace and mercy in forgiving me. Help me to learn the grace of forgiveness even as Joseph forgave his brothers and even as You forgave me. In your name. Amen.*

Activity Page for the week of August 17, 2008

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- Sunday:** James 3-5
- Monday:** Jeremiah 27-29
- Tuesday:** Jeremiah 30-32
- Wednesday:** Jeremiah 33-36
- Thursday:** Jeremiah 37-39
- Friday:** Jeremiah 40-42
- Saturday:** Psalms 88-90

Verse to Remember

By using one letter of the alphabet BEFORE the letter shown, decipher this week's verse to remember.

Jesus said to

them: "
 J B N

U I F

C S F B E

P G

 , "
M J G F
—John 6:35.

Answers:
Verse to Remember: "I am the bread of life."
Number Stumpers:
1-83;
2-46 or 64;
3-55;
4-38.

NUMBER STUMPERS

This little exercise is bound to get the gray matter moving! Here's what to do: Using the clues given for each number, figure out the answer for each question. We've given you an example.

Example:

- Clue 1: It is an even two-digit number.
- Clue 2: The difference between its digits is 1.
- Clue 3: When the two digits are multiplied, the answer is 12.

The answer is 34.

1.

- Clue 1: It is an odd two-digit number.
- Clue 2: The product (multiply) of its two digits is 24
- Clue 3: When the second digit is subtracted from the first, the difference is 5.

Answer _____

2.

- Clue 1: It is an even two-digit number.
- Clue 2: The sum of the two digits is 10.
- Clue 3: The difference of the two digits is 2.

Answer _____

3.

- Clue 1: It is an odd two-digit number.
- Clue 2: The sum of the two digits is 10.
- Clue 3: The difference of the two digits is 0.

Answer _____

4.

- Clue 1: It is an even two-digit number.
- Clue 2: One-half the number is 5 more than the number of days in a fortnight.
- Clue 3: The sum of the squares of the two digits is 73.

Answer _____

