

Forgiveness with Generosity

Description

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Genesis 45:1-15

One of my favorite authors is Isabel Allende. She quotes her daughter's motto as one that guides both her writing and her private life. The motto is, "When in doubt, ask: 'What is the most generous thing to do?'"

Believe it or not, there are ways to "forgive" people that still leave vast amounts of regret and damage unresolved. Joseph seemed concerned with the effects this continued guilt and regret would have on his brothers. So in addition to forgiving them, Joseph took the generous step of going beyond forgiveness. He attempted to redeem them from the bondage and emotional torment they displayed in their repentance.

This is surely the most generous way we, too, can forgive anyone who has offended us. Sometimes we want to forgive, but we want our offender to continue to feel terrible about what they've done. This kind of forgiveness is selfish. It relieves me of the guilt of an unforgiving spirit, but it insures that the other party remains burdened by what they've done. May God help us learn to forgive generously, as He forgives us. May we offer true redemption and freedom in our forgiveness.

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