

"God Meant It Unto Good"

GENESIS 50

APRIL 18, 2010

Does Bad Always Lead to Good?

DISCUSSION OPENERS

- Think of times when you or a loved one were obviously mistreated through physical or verbal abuse. What was your reaction? Are you the type that fights back immediately? makes plans for retaliation? takes a "victim" role? buries it in hope it goes away?
- What is the most difficult thing about being wronged? How do we know when to stand up for ourselves or when to let God handle the matter for us?



**"But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring it to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."
-Genesis 50:20**

THE RESPONSE TO EVIL

1. What kind of abuse had Joseph encountered in the early part of his life?
 - Gen. 50:15-18 states the concern of Joseph's brothers after Jacob's death. Estimate Joseph's age. After all Joseph had done, why do you think the brothers were still afraid? Use Gen. 42:21
2. Notice Joseph's emotional response (vs. 17b) and his verbal response (vs. 19-20). What did he mean when he asked, "Am I in the place of God?" What is this place? Heb. 10:30-31; Lev. 19:18
 - Joseph's response (Gen. 50:21) completely correlates with scripture. Why is this action expected of a child of God?
 - A. Luke 6:32-38
 - B. Romans 12:17-21
 - C. Matthew 6:14-15
 - D. Prov. 11:23
3. DISCUSS: Compare the difference between being wronged by "the brethren" and being wronged by the "unrighteous." Why is it important to differentiate between the two?
 - A. The Brethren - Matt. 5:38-48; I Cor. 6:5-7
 - B. The Unrighteous - Deut. 32:35-36; I Sam. 25:30-33, 38-39; Ez. 25:12-14
4. We've studied how to treat those who mistreat us, but how do we really feel toward these people? Is it okay for us to wish for vengeance upon evil? Ps. 35:1-9; 23-28; Ps. 94:1-10, 17-23; Rev 6:9-10
 - When will this vengeance be paid back? 2 Pet. 2:9; Jude 14-16
5. Consider Joseph's response, "You thought evil against me but God meant it unto good." What doctrine clarifies this concept?
 - Does bad *always* lead to good? Ro. 8:28

STRONG'S DEFINITIONS

EVIL = "Ra" - bad; adversity, affliction, calamity + exceedingly x great, grief, heavy	H7451
GOOD = "Towb" - good in the widest sense; a good thing, beautiful, bountiful, in favour	H2896
NOURISH = "Kawl" - to keep in; hence to measure; abide, bear, provide. Gen. 50:21	H3557
VENGEANCE = "Naquam" - to grudge, to avenge or punish	H5358

Many of us have personally experienced or have seen a loved one experience an extremely destructive form of wrongful doing. It often takes a lifetime to overcome the emotional scar tissue it has caused. Does any good come from this kind of bad?

TEXT OF THE WEEK

**"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."
- Romans 8:28**