

The Restoration of Josephs' Brothers

(Part 1)

“Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, ‘Have everyone leave my presence!’” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. ⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 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. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. ¹⁰ You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’ ¹² “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.” ¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him!” (Genesis 45:1-24)

God’s plan for each and everyone of us is to have the full blessings of God and to be a channel of blessing to the people who are around us. God sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to save us from sins and from death. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He was buried and rose from the death on the third day to give eternal life to everyone of us who believe in Him and follow His steps in our lives. With Christ death on the cross we have the way to go back to God and receive and enjoy His blessings. Through Jesus we have the grace and forgiveness of God and become the channel for God’s grace and forgiveness to pass to others and that is one of the prove that we are walking in the light as the Word of God declares, **“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”** (1 John 1:7) Whatever the period of separation will be, one day we will meet. As God forgives us in Christ Jesus, He wants us to forgive others and reconcile with them and carry the ministry of reconciliation so they will be reconciling with God.

The story of Joseph and how his brothers betrayed him in selling him to the Ishmaelite who took him to Egypt is well known and for sure Joseph passed through a hard time and suffered, but the Lord was with Joseph and he prospered. God gave to Joseph wisdom and took him out from the pit and lift him up to be the second in Egypt after Pharaoh. Through the wisdom that God gave him he prospers, and God gave him the plan to save country from 7 years of famine that would come after 7 years of plenty. Joseph during the years of plenty he got married and had two children. But God would not stop here in the life of Joseph, God restored the blessings to Joseph but restoration will not be complete unless Josephs’ brothers would be restored to God and to Joseph.

For sure the mind of Joseph was occupied with the memory of his brothers who betrayed him. In the same way our mind should be occupied with those people who were near to us and harm us, but not to harm them and repay them evil to what they did, but to forgive them and thinking of how they can be restored. When we are ready God would bring them back. For sure it was in the mind of Joseph that one day he will meet his family and his brothers who betrayed him. The same should be in our minds and prospects. Joseph met his family around 13 years after the incidence of departure. The longing to restore the fellowship was there in Joseph’s heart and that longing should be there in our hearts. This longing will be there in our hearts if we show the following; God will work on restoration if he found in us the following Criteria that show we are ready to work with God to achieve His plan.

1- Forgiveness: Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly and he was longing to see them. He was longing for the reunion. The same should be for us eagerness to forgive and for the reunion.

2- Welcome to those who returned: Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” The father embraces the lost son when he came back home and welcome him in. Joseph did the same with his brother. In the same way God wants to see the same attitude in us so He can send our brothers back to us. Joseph **kissed all his brothers and wept over them**, God wants to see that more in us; embracing, kissing and weeping over those whom God will send back.

3- Comfort to those who repented: Joseph said to his brothers, **“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.”** Joseph assured his brothers and comforted them assuring them that he forgave them and now the way for them open to come back to God. In his forgiveness to them Joseph assured them God also forgive them.

4- The wounds will be healed as we meet: Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence.” As Joseph met his brothers as we can read in Genesis 42-45 a healing process was initiated in him and finally he could not hide his loving and his feelings toward them. In the same way God would going to bring people whom we knows for many years and certain crises had happened that separated us. But as we meet together it is God who had arranged the meeting, it is ordained by Him, He is there and He would heal us as we interact with those whom we love; even they had hurt us but God would heal the relationship and mend the hearts and clean and sooth the wounds.

5- Real concern for those who return: Joseph explained to his brothers what the effect of famine on them in the future, **“five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.”** That showed a real concern of Joseph to the welfare of his brother. God wants to see that in us toward those whom God would bring to us and restore them to Himself and to His church. They are body, soul and spirit, and they have needs as we are. Therefore we need to look toward them as God look toward them. This is how we show and prove our maturity toward God who had called us to be restorers of souls and people to Himself and to His church.

My dear and beloved: We need to show maturity for God’s concerns; we need to be responsible people to work hand in hand with God who called us to be partner with Him to restore people back to Him and to help them and support them as would God help them. Your hand and heart as a worker ought to be as Jesus hand and heart, as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. O Lord touch my heart and mold me more and prepare me in a special way to be an instrument in your hand in restoring and bringing back many people to you and to your church. Lord equip me for this service, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*