JOE **– Mighty Joe – Prime Mister – wk4**

**Come out taking pictures of people with your phone (on this day pics)**

**We are all take pictures daily in our mind of what we do, where we go, who we meet - The good and the bad. We don’t remember them all, but some seem to be with us forever.**

**Some we don’t want to forget wonderful memories (Expound) Some are pictures tearing us apart inside (Expound)**

**Some keep the pics around to remind them why they don’t like this person or to wallow in self-loathing.**

**At what point do we empty the mental scrapbook and learn to forgive? Neg pictures we can’t let go of can destroy our life.**

**Joe was faced with this is very real way… Joseph’s pics - At 17 given a dream of the future that his family and the nations would bow to him. (Sliding through pics)**

* **Dysfunctional Home - 11 bro, 1 sis, 3 stepmoms.**
* **House of chaos, jealousy, rage, murder, abuse, confusion.**
* **He was assaulted and sold into slavery**

**Joe’s mental pictures of that day (struggle, confusion, terror broken trust, physical pain, begging for help)**

* **Joe was sold and became a house slave**

**Pics of seduction, injustice, accusation, & conviction**

* **Joe wound up in prison – for 2 years seemingly wasting away**

**Plenty of time to slide thru the pics in his mind: his father, home, childhood, his life, what his brothers did**

* **One day Joe had a chance to interpret the Pharaoh’s dreams**

**Joe told him it meant a future famine was coming - and gave him instruction on how to prepare. Pharaoh was so impressed he made Joe the 2nd most powerful person in the kingdom (VP)**

**1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:**

**Years of abuse & wrongs done to him could have left him a justifiably bitter and angry person. We can tell his thought about it a lot (20yrs)**

**Seven years later a great famine came – people were starving**

**Joseph’s family back home… were starving too…**

**Gen 42:1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you just keep looking at each other?” (So funny – sounds like a dad) 2 He continued, “I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.” 3 Then ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. (Fearful they would do something to Ben like Joe he has him stay home – Jacob had that in his mind everyday – 20yrs)**

**The brothers of Joe journey to Egypt – a 3 week walk – not knowing what they would discover.**

**Genesis 42:6 Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph’s brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. (Only part of his dream comes true) 7 As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger (Would have looked, sounded, and acted Egyptian – 20+ years passed – told later he spoke thru an interpreter) and spoke harshly to them. “Where do you come from?” (dealing with anger still) “From the land of Canaan,” they replied, “to buy food.” 8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. 9 Then he remembered his dreams about them (Pictures of his past) and said to them, “You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected.” \*\* Joseph battling revenge, resentment, his scarp book was full**

**Not dealing with the past, robs us of our future…**

**We end up: burying it, blaming others, blaming ourselves**

**They tell him we are 10 of 12 bros from Canaan, 1 is dead 1 is with dad.**

**Joe throws them in jail - After they sit in jail 3 days, he tells them 9 can return to get the youngest bro but one will remain until they return…**

**21 They said to one another, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother. We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; (In the pit and being carried away) that’s why this distress has come on us.” 22 Reuben replied, “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy? (Ruben literally says I told you not to do it!) But you wouldn’t listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood.”**

**23 They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter. 24 He turned away from them and began to weep… (battling unforgiveness – the tears were a sign of the deep pain of his past) but then came back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.**

* **He hid the money they brought in their grain bags…They were afraid they were getting set up – they were freaking out.**

**Genesis 42:36 Their father Jacob said to them, “You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!”**

* **Sometime later - Jacob reluctantly sent Ben - told them to take the twice money back and gifts to give to him – for mercy. Judah this time guarantees Ben’s safety.**
* **Joseph saw Ben coming and had them brought to the palace**

**The brothers thought they were going to be arrested or kill us**

**Still keeping his identity a secret - he asked how their father was – “is he still alive?” Gen 43:28 They replied, “Your servant our father is still alive and well.” And they bowed down, prostrating themselves before him.**

**29 As he looked about and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother’s son, he asked, “Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?” And he said, “God be gracious to you, my son.” (He couldn’t hold it together)**

**30 Deeply moved at the sight of his brother, Joseph hurried out and looked for a place to weep. He went into his private room and wept there. (He ran to the restroom) 31 After he had washed his face, he came out and, controlling himself, said, “Serve the food.” (Can you imagine trying to keep it together?)**

* **They ate separately from each other (He was flipping thru the pics)**
* **Joseph sent them back again hiding their money and possessions**

**\*\* Planting one of his cups in Ben’s bag - He then chased them down and brought them back.**

* **Ben (youngest) is accused of stealing - and was to become a slave**

**I would imagine he would tell Ben after they left – he was trying to protect his little brother.**

* **Judah pleaded to take him instead for their father’s sake – “he already lost a son – please…” - Not knowing who he was talking to.**

**Gen 45:1 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. (In his brokenness he began to see forgiveness – some of you need to break – weep – let God ruin you!) 3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, (speechless) 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. (This was the turnaround for Joseph – his forgives…) 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. (The plan of God to save Israel – the people to bring the Messiah – what happened saved the world - eventually bringing Jesus)**

**14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. (Sorrow turned to joy) 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him. (what’s up?)**

**He sent for his father and the whole family to come live there.**

**Jacob is stunned and overwhelmed – all moved to the big city.**

**Gen 46:29 emotional reunion “threw their arms around each other and wept for a long time” His forgiveness brought healing to his whole family.**

**Fulfilling both of Joseph dreams of the future when he was 17.**

Mighty Joe’s forgiveness **- We can learn a lot about forgiveness**

1. **Forgiveness does not excuse the wrong**

**Joseph never excused it or belittled what was done**

**- Forgiveness does not approve of what was done**

 **Does just the opposite, it acknowledges the wrong done**

1. **Forgiveness does not give permission to do it again**

**Joseph was determined to never let it happen again- wanted Ben there**

**- Joe was prepared to stop the chain of pain with Ben.**

**- Forgiveness does not mean you will trust that person.**

**It does not remove the consequences of our actions.**

1. **Forgiveness does not mean that it wasn’t painful**

**Joseph’s heart was breaking – he wept a lot – he was upset – he was in pain**

**- Forgiveness does not make it less appalling or painful**

**- Forgiveness gives you permission to be hurt and even angry.**

**When their father died his bros brought it up - afraid joe was going to take ‘em out…They sent a message, “Dad said you have to forgive us”**

**Gen 50:17 ‘I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.**

**Still heavy with him… some things you never forget.**

**4. Forgiveness does not mean it will be forgotten – (Spiritual amnesia)**

**Joe remembered it clearly 20 yrs when his bros showed up it was fresh – and 17 yrs (37 total) later when brought it up again. He never forgot.**

**But he had forgiven them - You can tell by his response he had – he did not hold it against them - Gen 50:19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. (no longer speaking harshly)**

**5. Forgiveness opens your eyes to a bigger picture**

**This was where Joe found healing - when he saw God’s hand at work**

**Like this mosaic made of hundreds of pictures - The pictures of your past make greater sense as you walk in forgiveness. They begin to come together to create a bigger picture**

**God used those moments in your life to bring you here today… Walking in forgiveness, deciding to not carry grudges, letting go**

**To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner is you**

**6. Forgiveness is when you release the offense into God’s hands**

**Joseph told them, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, to judge and punish you?**

* **He understood that healing comes from knowing God**
* **That we are to forgive – and God deals with the rest**
* **He was able to do this because he belonged to God**

**How about you? Who do you belong to? Yourself? Forgiveness begins with putting your life… your past… your future in the hands of God – thru Jesus Christ**

**In the hands of God you can see the pics in a new perspective**

**\*Forgiveness is refusing to seek revenge or payback for a wrong done.**

**We are able to do this in Christ because that is what Christ has done for us.**

**Colossians 3:13 Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**

**The cross was Jesus taking those pics of wrongs done to you and the wrongs you have done and washes clean…**

**1 Corinthians 13:4 – “Love doesn’t keep a record of wrongs”**

**When we come to Jesus – He takes the pictures of our past, the wrongs done, and he gets rid of them… He keeps no record of our wrongs… this forgiveness then gives you the freedom to forgive.**

**Follow Joe forgive those who hurt you in your childhood, your parents, your wife/husband, your ex-wife/husband, your friend, sister, brother, your boss, forgive your neighbor – forgive.**

**Like Jesus – Joseph - Yosef (God will increase / repeat)**

**Each week we get more of the gospel of Jesus in the story of Joseph**

* **Like Jesus – left his home and Father to a place to be rejected, despised, and suffered though he was innocent.**
* **Like Jesus - was the guidance to their salvation.**
* **Like Jesus - was exalted and enthroned (right hand of power)**
* **Like Jesus – Joseph saved the world – Both are called savior**
* **Like Jesus – was not recognized for who he was**
* **Like Jesus – Joe revealed himself at their second coming**
* **Like Jesus – offers forgiveness to those who are guilty**

**Joseph points to the true savior – JESUS – Do you know him?**