



# FORGIVENESS IS COSTLY

TEXT: GENESIS 50:15-21

**<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup>'This is what you are to say to Joseph: 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.**

**<sup>18</sup>His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.**

**<sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup>So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.**

What reasons did Joseph's brothers have to fear Joseph, now that their father was dead?

- They had \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph as they were growing up
- They \_\_\_\_\_ him to some \_\_\_\_\_
- Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_ for attempted rape.
- Joseph was \_\_\_\_\_ in prison.

If you were Joseph, how would you have felt? What would you do? (BE HONEST!)



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## Why is forgiveness so hard?

Forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_

- What cost did the king bear in Jesus' parable of the unmerciful servant in today's Gospel lesson?
- What cost was Joseph going to bear if he forgave his brothers?
- What cost must you bear if you forgive someone who sins against you?

Joseph: Am I in the place of \_\_\_\_\_? Why is this statement so crucial understand when it comes to forgiveness?

What cost did God absorb in order to forgive your sins?

**Forgiveness is hard because forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_**

***When you see and understand how costly your forgiveness was,  
you will then be able to forgive as God has forgiven you - regardless of the cost.***