

THE ROAD FOR YOUR RECONCILIATION WITH GOD IS PAVED
BUT YOU DO NEED TO USE IT RIGHTLY

I. It is God's command for you to be reconciled if at all possible

A. To live in disharmony is sin and will bring more sin

1. God's commands: Luke 17:3:5 and Matt. 5:23-25 (compare Rom. 12:28)
2. God has good reasons for pressing this matter: Heb. 12:14-15 & Matt. 5:25

II. Consider well that God is far more willing to reconcile with you than Joseph

A. The fear that filled Joseph's brothers heart was unnecessary (50:19-21)

B. What you see in Joseph is but a faint reflection of what dwells in God!

III. You must walk God's way of peace in the right way to find His peace

A. Joseph's way of peace was his hardest moment of his life: *to forgive!*

1. Never think cheaply about forgiveness
 2. Forgiveness is not *forgetting sin*, but it is *burying sin*
 3. Forgiveness is often *a repeat-process* rather than a *one-time action*
- What is the right way to reconcile with God and men?
1. With men, there is wisdom to 'send a message to the offended' (vs. 16-17)
 2. With both, there needs to be an open confession of our sins: vs. 17-18
 3. With both, there needs to be a clear *request for forgiveness* (Ps. 51:7-9)
 - a. asking for forgiveness includes a *surrendering of yourself as right-less*
- God already declared what He will do when we come to Him for forgiveness
1. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9



What do you think ...?

1. What is forgiveness?
2. Why is it so hard to forgive others?
3. Finish the sentence: *"To forgive someone is very important because ..."*
4. Are there other people who forgave like Joseph did his brothers?

While you listen ...?

5. How long were Joseph's brothers already in Egypt before Genesis 50?
6. To live in a fight with another person is harmful for now and later. Why?
7. If you were one of Joseph's brothers, what are you to do to undo the wrong?
8. You have grieved God with the sins you did. What must you do now?
9. Jesus is more ready to forgive than Joseph. How do you know that is true?
10. What did God do in order to be able to forgive sin?

As you go on today ...

11. Are your sins forgiven by God? If not, why is that?
12. Read Jesus' teaching in Matthew 18:21-35. What did you learn?
13. To put a burning coal on someone's head doesn't sound right. Yet God did say that we are to do this in Romans 12:20-21. What does He mean?