

A RELATIVE DISASTER

Dear Friend:

How's the family? I do not mean just your immediate family but the whole family. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, great aunts and uncles, first cousins, second cousins, and third cousins twice removed? (I always wondered, when "removed" is part of the title of a family member are they still a family member? Does "twice removed" mean they were removed once but came back and had to be removed again?) Sorry, I digress...back to my point: how's your family - all your family? There is a chance that a relationship is strained somewhere.

Joseph and his family clearly had strained relationships. Interesting, the book of Genesis is a book of relative disasters. From Adam and Eve's strained relationship with God, to Cain and Abel, all the way to Joseph in Genesis 45 we see strained relationships. The past 4-5 weeks Sunday sermons and In Touch have focused on the life of Joseph. This week I want to wrap-up Joseph's life story, and we can end on a positive note: after years of separation, and no doubt pain, Joseph is able to restore the relationship with his family. In Genesis 45 Joseph gives us four great lessons about how to forgive and restore relationships. First, we must have faith in the fact that God is sovereign all the time. I love Joseph's statement in Genesis 45:5 when he tells his brothers not to be angry with themselves, he says: "It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you". Because Joseph remembered God was sovereign he could forgive his brothers. Second lesson about forgiveness: Resentment is a waste of time. Relationship wounds are hard to experience and slow to heal. Joseph, however, moved past the pain in Genesis 45 and embraced his brothers. Spiritual maturity can do that. Third lesson: Forgiveness is difficult, very difficult sometimes. Seeing things from God's point of view makes forgiveness possible when we see it as impossible. Fourth lesson: Forgiveness is worth the time! Forgiveness does not always come quickly but when we do forgive, we will find inner peace. Health statistics show that the more we can forgive, the better our health is.

Relatively, how are things going? If need to forgive someone now, do so, in the long run you will feel better...just ask God, just ask a doctor! In Christ's love, Pastor Mike

Prayer Concerns: Harold Eller family (Greg Eller's dad passed away), Dick Fisher (still recovering heart valve replacement), Trish Dolejs (shut-in of the month)

Events: Next Friday, May 24 Men's breakfast at Tim Horton's