

DREAMS AND DETOURS
Lessons from the Life of Joseph

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

Genesis 41:50-57

Jeff Schreve

And Joseph named the first-born Manasseh, "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." And he named the second Ephraim, "For," he said, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." Genesis 41:51-52

There can be no fruitfulness until there is forgiveness.

How can you forgive as Joseph did?

1. Know that God is over all things.

"Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Not one of them will fall [alight] to the ground without your Father's permission." Matthew 10:29 GW

A. No hurt can come into your life without God's permission.

B. No hurt can come into your life without God's purpose.

2. Know that you have offended God far worse.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a certain king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. And when he had begun to settle them, there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents. Matthew 18:23-24

* If He forgives you, how can you not forgive others?
And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

3. Know that forgiveness is both a choice and a process.

A. As you choose to pardon, God removes the pain.

B. As you choose to pardon, God restores the flow of grace.

In order to truly forgive, you must receive His forgiveness.