

Topic	Reconciliation
Reference	Genesis 50
Date	22 November 2020
Speaker	Leon Lim

Hi everyone. I hope everyone is keeping safe in this bizarre and difficult season. I hope you're able to keep yourselves spiritually nourished and strong, spending time building your relationship with God in this season. Even as we come together to hear God's word let us begin by tuning our eyes, ears, hearts, mind, and soul through the Spirit. Let us pray

Introduction: **What does the world need today?**

It does not take a genius to see that the world is horridly broken. The younger generations of millennials are awfully disillusioned by what they are witnessing and utterly hopeless that the situation can be mended. Many reaching existential crises because of what is happening.

Just look at our statistics today and you can understand why.

140 million orphans in this world

150 million homeless people

1.6 billion lack adequate housing

736 million people living in poverty

73 million abortions a year.

50 percent marriages end in divorce.

In America 700,000 children are abused a year

1.75 million sex slaves according to UNICEF

About 35 known wars with 30 plus countries involved directly and more involved indirectly.

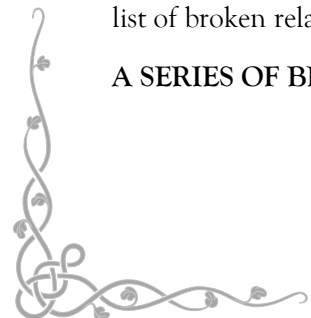
46 percent of our Global Forests have been cut down

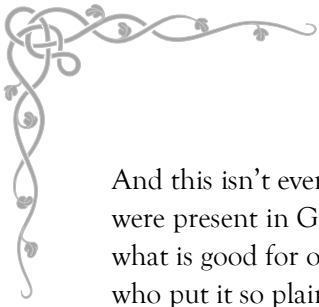
When asked this question, many will offer up solutions like world peace, vaccine, end of pollution and much more. But tucked right here in the entire book of Genesis is God's revelations to what the problem is and the proposed solution.

Let me show you that all the problems we are seeing now is caused by one main issue. I know it is easy for all of us to point it at sin. But I propose to you, that all these problems stem from **BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS**.

Because of sin, we are unable to foster proper relationship with God or with each other. Look at Genesis and the list of broken relationships.

A SERIES OF BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS





And this isn't even as exhaustive as it could be. But just to give us an overview of how many broken relationships were present in Genesis. And it all began when we **TOOK MATTERS INTO OUR OWN HANDS**. We decide what is good for ourselves and put ourselves in the place of God. A few weeks ago, I appreciate our guest speaker who put it so plainly that we chose to become self-reliant and self-determined. That is what sin is. And self-reliance and self-determination are the recipes for broken relationships.

Story after story, it shows the result of self-reliance and self-determination is broken down relationships. This was not the image of God we were supposed to bear. We were supposed to show all creation what interdependence, complementing, loving, community and so much more is like. God called Israel so that they could become the model community. But they destroyed it over and over again.

So here we are again at such a point of the story where Jacob's death is honoured, and his sons' first thoughts were to take matters into their own hands. **Let's start with verse 15 here**

REALIZING that their safety blanket is gone. They wondered What If Joseph would kill them now? What if they were going to receive what they had done wrong in full swing because they took matters into their own hands before and sold Joseph as a slave. Now let's come up with a plan to make sure we don't die.

Whenever men take matters into their own hands, it results in broken relationships that lead ultimately to disasters shown in **GENESIS**. And the more I read, the more I see how ugly the picture really is about us as the human race. The result of our self-reliance and self-determination has led to these things still being at the core of our society.

But why didn't God just paint a beautiful picture and write out these things for us to see? I believe it's because **GOD wanted to demonstrate that He is a God who DOES NOT HIDE BEHIND A BEAUTIFUL FAÇADE. HE FACES SIN HEAD-ON TO RECONCILE THE WORLD TO HIMSELF.**

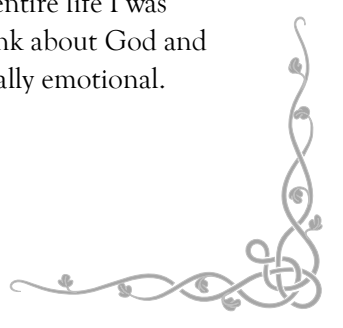
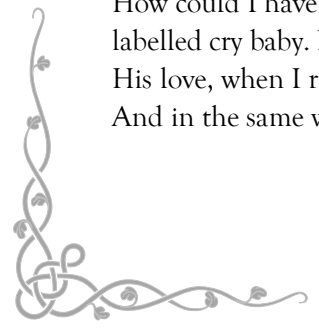
God in this origin story was not here to paint a glowing picture, a nice drama or movie about happy ever afters. He was here to reconcile us to Him and to all creation. He was here on a mission. A mission to save all that He had planned. So I entitled my sermon **RECONCILIATION- GOD IS OUR SALVATION**

Let's begin by looking at JOSEPH'S AFFLICTIONS. Joseph has all the reasons to become a bitter, angry, resentful and revengeful man. Look at the list, I don't think many of us can claim to have gone through as many afflictions as he did.

Nobody would blame him if the story painted him as **STILL BEARING A GRUGE**. The brothers certainly expected him to be like that. If the story was written in a way that tell us that, Joseph knowing that their brothers were evil, took matters into his own hands and slayed them so that all will know that justice prevails. That these evil doers will reap what they sowed. I think we would certainly love that.

However, When I was preparing this message. I was praying and asking for the Spirit to really lead me to a message that is for this time. And then my eyes were opened to something I had not noticed before. I reminded you all before that one of the key interpretation tools we have is to look out for **REPETITIONS** in the bible. They are intentional. And little did I notice before in the story of Joseph how many times it was written that Joseph wept. Right in the beginning of this passage was him weeping.

How could I have missed it. I of all people should recognize it because it resembles me a lot. My entire life I was labelled cry baby. My father too. When we are touched by God we just somehow cry. When I think about God and His love, when I remember the grace and the stories in my life that shows me who He is. I get really emotional. And in the same way, Joseph had this soft spot for God.



JOSEPH WEPT

I think **JOSEPH'S TEARS ARE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING RECONCILIATION**. Joseph's remarkable reaction is something we should all learn from about Who God is and how we can respond in this world filled with broken relationships.

See Joseph was repeatedly depicted as a crier. In the beginning of chapter 50, the author purposely showed Joseph as emotional through three concrete actions Joseph did. he 'threw himself upon', 'wept over' and 'kissed' the father upon his death. I mean most people would like to put crying on the addendum. Or not in the story at all. Or maybe just at the emotional climax of the movie. Why did presumably Moses, inspired by the Holy Spirit, intentionally write it down so many times? His crying on 6 occasions was recorded just in the last 5 chapters. (Gen 45:1,14-15; 46:29; 50:1, 10, 17)

I think it's because **JOSEPH'S TEARS** revealed God's reconciliation in three powerful ways.

Joseph's own words will reveal to us why he wept. So let's discover the first. **TEARS OF LOVE**

I think Joseph was a man who knew God's heart. How else could he have been able to withstand the pursuits of one of the most beautiful woman? Or interpret dreams or more? I believe God was not invisible to him. He knew God intimately. He was a man who was a 100 percent sure of God's plan and had faith that God was in control.

Sure, he was naïve in the beginning, but he was so certain God showed up in his dreams. And as his life unfolded before us, we could see him being sure about what God's plans and ways are and he was always submitted to them. Most things in his life were quite extraordinary. He may not always understand it at first, but he would submit to it eventually knowing that God has always something better. And here, he had the chance to act out and take matters into his own hands, but he knew God's plan and would not go against it. We see it in his response to his brothers. **AM I IN THE PLACE OF GOD?** To take matters into my own hands. He learnt this at an early age. When faced with the seduction of Potiphar's wife. In Gen 39:9 he said "How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?". He knew that going against God's plan will result in more disaster and was willing to face jail rather than to go against it.

If you look at the passage where we see Joseph cry, it was at key **MOMENTS IN THE RECONCILIATION** of his family. The crying and grief in chapter 50 we just read were preceded by the earlier stories of weeping in reunion with his family (Gen 45 and 46). I think these were God moments of reconciliation where tears of love flowed. Mind you the crying depicted was for long periods of time - Moses intentionally wrote. This action can also be found at a key moment in Gen 33:4 where Esau ran to meet Jacob, embrace him, fell on his neck (threw himself over) and kissed him and wept.

These things mattered so much that they were recorded as God's word. Why? Because they reflect the heart of the Father and what mattered to God. The Father in heaven longs for reconciliation showing how these moments matter so much to him. Can you recollect another story that depicts this very action? Yes! The story of the prodigal son. Luke 15:20 "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.'. This meeting in contrast showed the Father weeping instead. It showed the exuberant love of the father celebrating the return of his son. God's love celebrates our reconciliation to Him. So Esau and Joseph's tears were not a reflection of just tears of regret, sorrow, pain, there were tears of Love. They reflected **THE HEART OF THE FATHER, THE HEART OF LOVE**.

God has no plan B. There is only one plan. He wants to be reunited with his family and He will go all out to fulfil His plan. Joseph witnessed this. How in the unlikeliest of all stories did God orchestrate the salvation of his family

from a naïve boy who got sold into slavery. I think every time he saw that he wept. His brothers could not see it. They were so afraid that Joseph would take revenge. Joseph's reply was telling of how he realized God was the one who planned it all and saved his family. His reaction showed not just how much God planned for them to be saved but loved his family. He saw the **HEAVENLY FATHER'S HEART – LOVE**. You see, at the centre of God's heart is reconciliation. And nothing is going to stop God's plan to rescue us.

God's heart is to see all His creation be reconciled to him. These stories where we reconciled with one another mattered to him a lot. **THAT IS HIS GOOD INTENTION.**

You see 1 Tim 2:4 says God our saviour wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Remember also 2 Pet 3:8 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance". His plan is for all. I don't think even Joseph in that moment could comprehend that God intended for everyone including you and I to be preserved.

Problem is most of us, like Joseph's brothers, want to take matters into our own hands. The brothers essentially said "we beg for the forgiveness of our sins". And Joseph was right to answer "am I in the place of God?", He knew that only God can forgive sins. **And the forgiveness of sins is not just about forgiving the 'wrongs'. The brothers knew that asking for forgiveness is a first step towards repentance just like the prodigal son. And Joseph had a choice, to accept out of love or turn away.**

Up until now, after all that has happened, what pained Joseph was probably the fact that his brothers used his father's legacy to plead for their lives instead of trusting that God had a plan all this while to save them. Joseph recognized how God delivered them from their sins and saved his entire family. How could he possibly do anything in God's place to choose to take their lives right now or choose not to forgive them when God had chosen to save them? See Joseph knew he should not put himself in the place of God and be self-reliant or self-determined. So he chose to love.

I see how all the problems we listed earlier like abuse, abandonment, abortion, divorce and so on stems from us putting ourselves in the place of God. This was the same sin Adam and Eve committed. And here, in reflection of who God is, Joseph knew God wanted reconciliation and salvation of his family. So he chose to love them the way God loved them.

If we understand this. It should come as no surprise to us why the greatest commandment is to Love God and to love others.

MATT 22:37-40 JESUS REPLIED: "LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'[A] 38 THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREATEST COMMANDMENT. 39 AND THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.'[B] 40 ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS HANG ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS."

What the world needs now is not a vaccine, better governments, or even a superherowhat we need more than anything else is Love. The world needs love. Our environment needs love. The Church needs love. Our neighbours need love. The orphans need love, the prostitutes need love. The homosexuals need love. If we can truly love God and one another then these issues caused by broken relationships can be resolved. But our ability to do that is marred by the fact that we have taken what is good - Love and chosen to use love however we want or to love ourselves, or even mere things. Joseph had every right to be angry, hurt, hate, or despise his brothers. But he chose to love.

My mom came from a horribly broken family. My grandfather had 4 wives and 7 concubines. Long story short, it was a mess. He cheated money from his company, became bankrupt and drank his life away. Until this day, the family hates or tolerates each other and could never forgive.

Mom could have turned out be a bitter person with much hatred, angst, and baggage and waste her life away wallowing in her pain. Or she could forget her past and ignore the reality of it.

But my mom was saved by God's love. Never really knowing true love in essence, she found it in God's love. Instead of choosing to be in a dark place, she responded to God realizing her need for God and chose to love. I always see her as a shining example of how to be able to love even the seemingly most unlovable people. That is probably why she started a school for children with learning disabilities. It was not easy for her. I knew she still feels the pain of what her family went through. Yet she never failed to love anyone the way God would love them

Amid all the mess, God saved my grandmother and my aunts in Singapore. Mom knew and intentionally made effort to keep in contact with her and her two sisters there. On my wedding day in Singapore, she invited them and lo and behold my other family members found out. One of them also a believer, reacted to scold my mom for inviting them. My mom replied that we are pastors, and we are called to love. See even as Christians it is not an automatic thing to choose to love. But I think God softened my relative's heart that day and they spoke with each other. That was a huge step towards reconciling that family with ours.

We now have accepted our relationship as family without any sense of hurt. There are many other family members that are still estranged and choose not to reconcile. But those of us who got to know the love of God can love. I don't think anyone can truly forgive without Love.

I tell these personal stories because it is as authentic as I can be and I want them to encourage the many of you who are going through the most difficult situations in your lives and you're crying out to God for reconciliations, forgiveness and hope. Many of us also have been desperately praying and asking God to save our loved ones and friends. **PRAY AS IF GOD HAS NO PLAN B.** Don't pray as if it's going to fail because God does not plan to fail. **HE NEVER FAILS.** Also pray with deep conviction knowing that the Spirit **WILL** work to help them respond to the gospel. I never imagined my family reconciling with each other. But God did it in a way we never could have orchestrated on our own.

Don't try to put yourself in God's to plan for yourself. I'm not saying just pray and do nothing ya. Try your absolute best but self-reliance and self-determination ultimately leads us out of God's plan. Submit yourself to God's plan that is good, that is to **LOVE**. And trust in it even though it seems like it's not going your way.

The process of reconciliation can **LOOK LIKE THIS**. In many ways this is an oversimplification. But reconciliation becomes easier when we realise that it is God's initiation, God's work and trust in it. Then there is our response to be repentant. This is the realization that we need to turn back to God in order for broken relationships to be mended. That sin needs to be removed from the equation and that is only possible through Jesus Christ. After that there is a choice to Love in imitation of God. That leads to the part where we are able to forgive.

You see forgiveness doesn't come when we feel afraid or unassured. Twice in the short passage, Joseph has had to assure his brothers. **DO NOT BE AFRAID.** Have no fear. **How did Joseph find not just enough to love, much less offer forgiveness?**

Because he knew **GOD WAS WITH HIM**. I think the tears that flowed down were also tears not of fear but tears of assurance because Joseph had experienced for himself that God has never left him nor forsaken him or his family.

We were created to be relational. I think the worst thing for man is to be alone. Even the bible says it is not good for man to be alone. And who better to know what being alone is like than Joseph. While he lay in that pit. While he was a slave. While he was imprisoned. Most of us have never even felt the abandonment to the level he must have felt. He was abused, abandoned, and dehumanized. Yet repeatedly in the chapters of the bible is this phrase. God was with him (Gen 39:1).

When Joseph finally saw God's plan to save his family by sending him to Egypt. He wept. Many will attribute the crying to all the afflictions and pains he suffered. But I am certain Joseph wept because he felt the relief in seeing that God was not just with him but his family as well. All these years of separation, he had no way to know if they were ok. He also didn't know if his family would be spared from the famine God planned. When the realization hit him that God was not just with him but with his family throughout all these years, it must have released a dam of emotions in him that was built up over the years. It must have been a tremendous moment of awe at who God is, to see how he was placed in position to save all the people including his family. You can see how assured Joseph was that God was with him by the names he gave his sons. **MANASSEH AND EPHRAIM**. Because God was with me, he made me forget all my hardships and made me fruitful when I should be in misfortune. This was before he met his brothers. He already was able to forgive. Because God was with him.

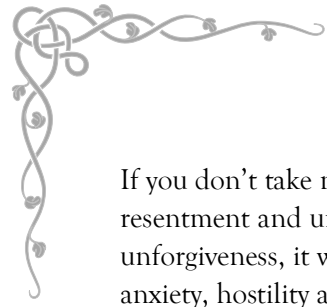
I think Scripture tells us plainly what it means to have God with us. And this is seen in Joseph's words. **DO NOT BE AFRAID**. These words resonate repeatedly in the entire book of Genesis. When Adam and Eve first sinned, they were afraid and they hid themselves. But again and again God would repeat these words, Do not be afraid, to counter what sin does. This was said when the promise came to Abraham (Gen 15), to Hagar when she felt lost (Gen 21:17), when Abraham was looking for a son (Gen 26:24), when Rachel was fighting for her life, (Gen 35:17), or when Joseph's brothers first appeared to him (Gen 43:23). God says do not be afraid. And this continues to resonate throughout the whole bible as well. Just do this exercise and see for yourselves how many times, God told us **DO NOT BE AFRAID**. In fact, one of our favourite verses that we quote a lot is **DEUTERONOMY 31:8**

As I looked back through the story, what was key to Joseph's serenity in all that has happened. What brought comfort to every of those people in their circumstance. Was the knowledge that God was with them. Joseph's brothers did in know that. They were afraid and used their father's name to beg for their lives. They were unable to truly reconcile with Joseph because they were afraid.

Forgiveness becomes possible because we have the assurance not to be afraid. That God will go before us and is with us. God works hard to makes his plan successful. He doesn't want it to fail. We can have the assurance that we can keep forgiving no matter how hard it is. Or even if the person fails over and over and over again.

Then pastor when does the forgiveness stop? Shouldn't there be a limit? Forgiveness offered by grace should never stop. We might not accept the sin. And may be forced to be separated because of the sin. But I don't think we are ever called to not forgive. Pray for the appointed time where the person will see God's love so you can be reconciled. Because God offered it to us. We should also offer it freely.

Many times, I had the thought myself, does this person truly deserve to be forgiven? I mean look at Josephs brothers, they can't be sincere right? STOOOOPP, brothers, sisters, where are you at? What are you looking for? Look at Christ, did he offer forgiveness because we understood the need for true repentance? He has given us the ability to be like him to offer others forgiveness even when they don't deserve it. In the end who deserves forgiveness? You? Me? We have the assurance to forgive others because we know God is with us. Nobody or nothing can stop you from forgiving someone. Is the choice in your hands or God's hands?



If you don't take my word for it that we need forgiveness. Take science. **JOHN HOPKINS** medical says, long term resentment and unforgiveness comes at a heavy price. It is not naturally what we are created to do. Accumulate unforgiveness, it will eventually lead to your death. It brings about stress, anger, uncontrolled emotions, depression, anxiety, hostility and more.

If I forgive that person will they learn their lesson? Let it go, God will work it out. Studies have shown that the act of forgiveness can reap huge rewards for your health, lowering the risk of heart attack; improving cholesterol levels and sleep; and reducing pain, blood pressure, and levels of anxiety, depression and stress.

But if you still don't take that as assuring, I hope you'll be reminded this Christmas, that the name given to Jesus, Emmanuel, means God with us.

See, God being with us is not about our response to Him but is about Him running towards us in love. Jesus – Emmanuel – God with us was not about us first loving God but how God ran in our direction in love. God with us is not just for us believers, it is for the whole world. God so loved the world that He gave his only Son. Joseph knew God was with him not because he was special or deserved it more than any of his brothers. He and his household were just recipients of what we now know as God's grace. I think John Newton when he penned down the words of the song Amazing Grace, would well up with tears just as Joseph did, knowing that grace is something unmerited.

So assured was Joseph in God that he believed that even if **THE BROTHERS INTENDED HARM**, it will never deter God's plan to reconcile. Nothing evil can even remotely come in the way. That God could turn every bad situation into good. You know how people today like to say assuring statements like 'everything will be alright'. It irritates me to the core because these assurances have no basis at all. But our assurance is not based on something wishy washy or some positivity. It is based on Jesus Christ. **PAUL SAID IN COL 2:2 MY GOAL IS THAT THEIR HEARTS, HAVING BEEN KNIT TOGETHER IN LOVE, MAY BE ENCOURAGED, AND THAT THEY MAY HAVE ALL THE RICHES THAT ASSURANCE BRINGS IN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MYSTERY OF GOD, NAMELY, CHRIST,**

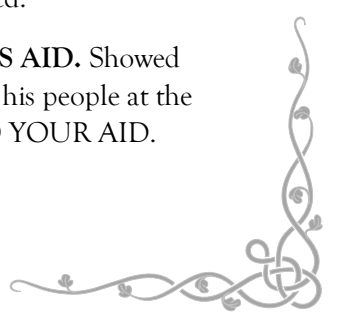
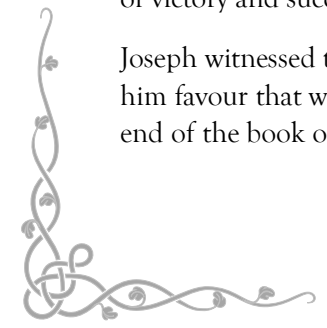
WHEN WE HAVE EXPERIENCED GOD'S LOVE, REPENTED AND TURNED from taking matters into our own hands. When we choose to love in imitation of our heavenly Father. And when we are secure in Christ, we can forgive. Just like Christ prayed for our forgiveness while we were yet sinners (Luke 23:34). Because he paid the price for forgiveness, we can forgive.

Last but not least, I believe Joseph's tears were not just tears that reflected all the afflictions he went through. It reflected his knowledge of the Father's love, the assurance in the Son but also **TEARS OF JOY FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT KNOWING GOD IS FOR HIM.**

Every parent wants to see their child succeed. So much so I've witnessed parents' obsession in guaranteeing their children's future. No normal parent would watch their child fail and go hahaha you deserve that. If you do that please come and see me. you need help. Ever wonder why? Because we are made in God's image.

God who is the perfect version of us, wants us to succeed in every way possible. Please don't start thinking I'm going to preach the prosperity gospel now. But this is the truth. The problem with sin when we became self-reliant and self-determined was that we view success in our own perspective. The cross itself should show you that our version of victory and success over sin is not your typical story? It is a narrow path. It is a road less travelled.

Joseph witnessed that time and time again, in the most hopeless situations, **GOD CAME TO HIS AID.** Showed him favour that would also be testament to others that God was for Joseph! His parting words to his people at the end of the book of Genesis was the same reminder. **GOD IS FOR YOU AND WILL COME TO YOUR AID.**



What God is for us means in this story and in Joseph's eyes, that he realizes that God will aid us to get there. God is for us does not mean God will be like a parent that spoils their children and exempt them from learning essential life skills like patience, loving your enemies, turning the other cheek and more. God is for us means that He will help you each step of the way.

No parent would leave their child suffering unnecessarily or unjustly. What more a parent who knows exactly what we need. God is on our side. And what a comfort to know that. When you have young kids and see how they operate out of trust, you know why God asked us to have faith like a child. It really means to trust that God is for us and has our back. (for the good things of course). We can't go doing things our way and expect God to still have our backs can we?

I have personally experienced the many times God still had my back even though I went on my own way. But eventually because we love him back, our response will be different. Notice some of us adults how we do things the way our parents did? Why? Not just because it works but because we now know that it was done out of love.

I pray that for all of us. We would come to know God not as some God who is indifferent and distant. Though we can't see it now. And the key word is now because eventually, as the story goes, we will see clearly why all things happened the way they did.

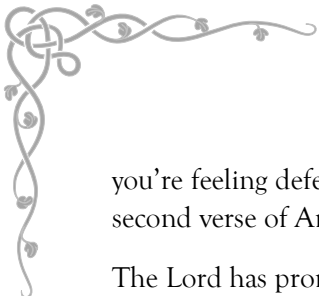
Don't forget you are his people. When we have the Holy Spirit as our helper. The Holy Spirit does not just aid us to repent, love, and forgive. **HE HELPS US TO REJOICE IN SPITE OF SUFFERING**

Because we know God is for us we can move from forgiveness to respond in thanksgiving. No matter how difficult or impossible it is to reconcile, no matter how tough the road ahead might seem, God has provided ALL the ingredients for us to reconcile. Most of us feel the opposite though, like how come God does not provide us with this. Or that? I think if Joseph would see things like that, he would have never forgiven. But it all clicked in that moment where God touched him, he knew he has all the ingredients to reconcile with God and his family.

Friends God is for you. You have all you need to overcome all the insurmountable situations caused by broken relationships. Some of you may feel that God has forsaken you. Or He is out to get you for all the wrongs you have done. That is not the God we believe in. God is for us. Nothing will change His plan of reconciliation, to bring us back together. This assurance is plainly seen in Joseph's firm belief that he had no ability to thwart God's plan in any way at all if God meant for his brothers to live. Who is he to be against that? He had faith that even the evil intentions and plans of the brothers were all overpowered by God to use for good. That their evil plans were still used by God to ensure their very own salvation.

Reconciliation is not just a movement from **RECONCILIATION** to repentance to love to forgiveness but climaxes in our response of thanksgiving. This is God's mission. It is that everyone hears the message that He longs to reconcile with them. That comes through You and I. the church. God's testimony that boasts of God's salvation to the world. Notice the word thanksgiving. It is not just thanks, we have a mission to give. When you receive something so good and brings you joy, it is hard to keep it to yourself (unless you're selfish of course). But God's reconciliation ultimately lets us offer it to someone freely the way we received it. Joseph was thankful for what God had done for him and passed it on. Brothers and sisters, this year is our year of missions. Pass it on. Otherwise the journey of reconciliation isn't truly complete. Joseph knew with all his heart that **GOD LOVES HIM, GOD WAS WITH HIM AND GOD WAS FOR HIM.** And he passed it on.

In closing, Friends, if our God is for us, who can be against us. I hear this quoted so many times. But what does that mean? It means God is working for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes. Who is that? It is you and I. It means while you're feeling down and out, or like in slavery like the Israelites in Egypt or



you're feeling defeated, if we call out to Him, God will come to our aid because He promised good to us. The second verse of Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hopes secure. I'm secure because of WHO HE IS. HE IS FOR ME.

So the more important question you need to ask yourself today is, 'Do you have faith in what you do or have faith in what God has done, is doing and will do for us?'

Many of us are crying out like the Israelites while they were enslaved. Praying for Him to solve our personal problems or the problems we see in the world right now. You're crying out why this is happening to me? Or why am I in this situation? Lamenting the results of brokenness caused by relationship that need reconciliation and crying out.... Why??? Many of us can't let go, can't forgive, can't accept or reconcile with someone and don't know a way out.

Turn your eyes to God. Your help will surely come. I am here to assure you that GOD IS WORKING HIS ABSOLUTE BEST to reconcile all of creation back to Him. He is in control; nothing can stop the Father's love. He promised to be with us and fulfilled it through Jesus Christ. He is for us; He gave us the Spirit to be our helper and aid. If you forget all I have said today. Don't forget this

This season has gotten me praying over broken relationships, for my loved ones and friends, and our nation's salvation like never before. I am constantly praying that God will be in control, be with them and for them. It's been my mission to pray this for them and I hope you will join me in doing so. That God will be in control in their lives, present in their everything and working for their salvation.

This is birthed through the realization that the Lord is my salvation. I look back at how God has been in control, how he is with me and for me and I can't help but want to cry and be thankful for all He has done. I wish I could tell you all the stories of how He was in control in my family, how He has been with and for us but there is no way I could ever fully express how I feel. But I thank God for music. For songs. And I thought this song would be an appropriate response together as the church in this moment. Take this time, if you've been through a lot, let this song minister to you and its words remind you that God is our salvation. For many others, let's make this our anthem of thanksgiving for how God has always been our salvation.