

AGAPE LIFE CHURCH
SUNDAY SERVICE
WITH
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Forgiving and Forgetting

God gave me this message for this year 2005 for the body of Christ. It's a tough message but I trust that as I give you this message you will be set free. God wants you to forget the past.

This month as we remember the suffering of our Lord Jesus, many of us are crying and asking, did God really take our pain? We are saying that but we don't really mean, most of us are taking the pain ourselves even though Christ had already taken it. Jesus was beaten, and whenever he fell down he got up and he kept on going. He did it with a lot of pain. So let's not dwell on our past failures because Jesus carried out all of our failures.

Isaiah. 43:18- "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past."

Forgiving and forgetting is a weapon God has given us, so let's use it.

I want to give you the story of Joseph. Last night as I was reading that story I began to weep. His own blood brothers sold Joseph to the Egyptians because they were jealous of him. They sold him for just 'peanuts' and lied to their father, Jacob, about it. Joseph, In Egypt was set up by Potifar's wife and he was thrown into a prison. Joseph was betrayed and left by everybody but God did not leave Joseph. In the prison God was with Joseph and later Joseph was chosen to be a leader of the prisoners.

It doesn't matter what you have done or if no one likes you because there is one who will never leave you no matter what you have done. I asked God that his people are struggling and they don't know what they are struggling with. His own blood brothers sold Joseph. Joseph could have said that there is no one who loves me as my own brothers have sold me. My friend, it doesn't matter what you are going through, maybe you have lost a job, it doesn't matter because God is with you. God is love and He is the same yesterday, today and forever. God has paid it all on the cross, but we are still struggling today, some women have been left by their husbands, but that doesn't matter. Just allow God to work in your life. Your struggles are only short term because Jesus paid for all our torment at the cross.

I couldn't help but weep when I read about Joseph; his own brothers had sold him. It doesn't matter what people have done, their time will come. As with Joseph, the famine

came into the land of his family. God was with Joseph because he had chosen to forgive and forget what his brothers had done to him. It was not the prayer of Joseph for the famine to come but God did it himself. So, when the famine was so severe, Jacob, their father, sent his children to Egypt to go and ask for food. When Joseph saw his brothers he didn't chase them instead, he welcomed them and was ready to help them. Joseph started asking them questions and he realized that Benjamin, his younger brother whom he loved the most, was not there. So Joseph told them to go back and come with Benjamin before they could get food. Joseph had so much love for his brothers and he couldn't help to weep every time he heard his brothers talk about him in their language. But Joseph didn't reveal himself to them because he wanted Benjamin to be there.

The second time, the brothers brought Benjamin with them. When Joseph saw Benjamin his heart was moved. Joseph ordered a big feast to be made for the brothers. The brothers did not understand what was happening. **Joseph was trying to tell them that he had forgiven them.** When the brothers told Joseph that if Benjamin would not return home then their father, Jacob, would die, his heart was moved. He thought how my father could die. After this Joseph could not pretend anymore, he took his brothers to his hands and told them the **evil they did God turned it to be good.**

Joseph knew his brothers but he retrieved the memory without pain. He knew the purpose that God has for his life. The purpose was bigger than the pain. Same way God wants you to stand and be strong. Let the champion in you come out. The bible says that **the one in you is greater than he of this world.**

2 Corinthians 5: 17-*“Therefore, if anyone in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, and the new has come!”* If you are in Christ you are a new creature, your past failures are gone and the new has come. Your past is buried. What was meant to harm you God turned it for your good, if you're in Christ. So it doesn't matter what accusations people have made over you. Remember not your past because your past will paralyze your future. God used Joseph to reach all the nations that had famine. God will use you to reach your family. Don't let the devil lie to you about your situation, it's not permanent and it's for a purpose. What is to come for you has not yet been revealed. **Do not dwell in your past.**

How Do You Forget?

You displace that memory with something. Think about the cross. I'm talking about the women; you have given up on your husbands. But you are a new creature, you have to use the new that God has given you. You have to forgive and forget. Your suffering is nothing.

Weapons Of Forgiving And Forgetting

1. To keep people together-

Think of the time we make mistakes, what has kept us together? Example: - a husband can be quarreling with a wife but at the end of the day a wife makes dinner and they sit together and eat and they forget what happened.

2. To end a conflict, confusion and un-productivity.

Let's rise up and forget about the past. Success requires forgetting offenses. That is, forgetting your own mistakes, weaknesses and failures. Don't be like Judas, he was guilty and was not able to forgive himself. Unforgiveness is useless, unproductive and it will take you away from what you want to do.

1 Peter 4:12-*"Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you."*

Don't be surprised. Things will happen, therefore be ready. God will make a way for you.

Mathew 5:11-12-*"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*

You are blessed when people accuse you. God made Joseph the ruler of Egypt. Let them accuse you, don't be taken by it. Many of us listen to what people say and we allow them to make us. God made us special. You are precious and forgiven before God.

3. To keep us in contact with Him-

If you don't use the weapon of forgiving and forgetting then, you are cutting the connection between you and God

Isaiah. 43: 25-26-*"I, even, I am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. ²⁶ Review the past for me, let us argue the matter together; state the case for your innocence."*

It's finished. He has cleansed you and has paid all for you. If he has cleansed you, then who are we to say anything against? The weapon of forgetting is the instant weapon you can use it instantly. Each act of forgiveness shortens the distance to any miracle you are expecting.

God wants you to use the weapon of forgiveness. What do you need from God today? Don't let the devil lie to you today. The greatest miracle is to know Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and to have him in your heart. God can give you anything you desire but first He requires you to forgive and forget.

totally forgive and forget.