

# From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ  
Mobile, AL**

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## How Could He Do It?

*But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. Genesis 50:19-21*

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philipians 4:6-7*

How could he do it? They had hated him. They had intended to kill him when he was a boy. Instead they sold him as a slave and made money off of him. He was separated from his family. His life was shattered.

His father's life was changed. His father who loved him dearly was devastated because they deceived him and had led him to believe that his son was dead – killed by a wild beast. His father had grown old grieving every day for his son. He was separated from his son. His life was shattered.

But now here his brothers stood before him begging him for food. They did not recognize him. And he had plenty of food. Now he had all of the power. He had them right where he wanted them. There was justice in life after all. Now he could repay them. Now he could throw them into prison as he had been because of their actions when he was younger. Now he could separate them from their families. Now their families would suffer like he and his father had suffered. Children would grieve as they grew up as he did with no father. Wives would grieve and struggle emotionally and economically without their husbands. The lives of their families would be shattered. What a sweet moment in life where the score of a devastating act of years ago would finally be evened by justice through another devastating act.

But he wept. He wept loudly. He treated them kindly. When he revealed his identity to his brothers, they had no answer. They were worried and afraid. Their lives and the lives of their families hung in the balance – and they were guilty with no defense. Then he kissed all of them, and fed them, and sent them home with food for their families. He used his power to give them good and fertile land to live on.

How could Joseph do it? In this pivotal moment in life where the choice he made would direct the course of life for generations, how could Joseph choose peace? What made Joseph so different?

How can we choose peace in similar moments in our lives? We can learn from Joseph. Joseph chose peace because he was first at peace with God. His peace with God brought him peace with himself. His trust was in God who is all powerful. Peace with himself empowered him to be at peace with others. As a result, Joseph was a peacemaker. In spite of the turmoil in his life, Joseph enjoyed a peace the world could not understand. We cannot understand this peace separate from God. We find that peace with God in Christ.

Peace means oneness or whole. When I am not one with God, I am not whole. There is no peace. Jesus came to make us one with God through His sacrifice of His life on the cross. In this life we will experience separation from God, family members, and friends. Our lives will be less than whole. But when we are at peace with God because of Jesus, our shattered lives can be made whole again in a way the world cannot comprehend. How can we be at peace in a shattered world? Be at peace with God through Jesus. Are you at peace?

**RICKY**