

Chat with the Children: Sorry

- Chat about reconciliation, about saying sorry, about meaning it...
- **God is in the business of fixing broken relationships:**
 - between us and him, and between us and each other
- *Prayer: Lord, fix any broken or bent relationships that I am part of.... help me do my part in working towards that reconciliation*

Recap

- Joseph - dreams - brotherly rejection - father resentment (37:10) - slavery into Egypt
 - Potiphar's household, the Lord is with him...
 - temptation, resisted, but flawed in character - his big head/centre of the universe syndrome/I'm indispensable still there...
 - prison - cup bearer and baker - dreams - **tell me** your dreams, I can interpret...
 - another couple of years in prison - Pharaoh's dreams - "I cannot do it," **Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."** (Gen 41:16)
 - promotion, to look after whole of Egypt - not merely personal advancement...
 - food put aside, times hard but there is enough in midst of famine
 - **enough that word spreads that there is grain in Egypt...**

Back home in Canaan...

- This is not a simple "And they all lived happily ever after..." ending to the story of Joseph!
 - Joseph may have learned to use his special gift of dream interpretation, but God is interested in more than just our special abilities
 - as we've seen, Joseph needed time to mature before he could safely use that gift...
 - and more, God is interested in the whole of his life - including those things most close to home, family and the deep pulls, love and tensions of real family life
- *God's call to Joseph, and to us, is: "Are you living for me in this area of life too...?"*

Favouritism

- Signs of Jacob's favouritism scattered throughout this chapter, continuing to poison family life:
 - vs. 4, 36, 38...
- How are we / how have we parented?
 - what messages have we left our children with?
 - Jacob implied to most of his sons that they were at best second class, at worst worthless...
 - messages about trust, about reconciliation, about what it takes to be acceptable, about education and appearance, about....
 - we will not get it perfectly right...
 - but, at whatever stage in parenting, we have the chance to grow, to repent of sins past, to live in ways that bring life and health...

Revenge

- For Joseph, huge temptation to hold the grudge and take revenge:
 - now in power over those who had previously used power against him!
- Rather Joseph seeks to test, to prove the mettle of his brothers
 - to pay back evil with good...
- When are we tempted to hold the grudge, pass on the gossip, not give them time

of day, cold shoulder, dismissive comment to others...
- will we turn our backs on such behaviours?

- Joseph stood against those negative character qualities:
- and as he did so he also stood for a huge characteristic of our Saviour...

Reconciliation

- Reconciliation and Salvation are two of the big pictures of God's work through Jesus:
 - saving us from our sin
 - reconciling is to himself, fixing broken relationships between us and God
- God's work in us is the beginning of him working more - in us **and** through us
- CS Lewis, "The Last Battle" - the ending of that story, as they enter into heaven, is the beginning of the greater story, not end...
- What character stuff has God put his finger on that we need to deal with?
- What prompts to service, to obedience, to working alongside God in his work, are we hearing as we look over Joseph's shoulder, into his life and family and work...?
- *Finishing straight into communion...*