

Right or Reconciled  
Genesis 45:1-15  
March 7, 2010

“I didn’t forget. You never told me.”

“I’m not the one who started it.”

“You were the one who sold me into slavery.”

This first two you may have said at some point in your life...the third, probably not. But Joseph could have. If you remember the story, Joseph’s brothers got so mad at him that they sold him to a caravan of Ishmaelites headed to Egypt. Fortunately, long story short, things worked out for Joseph in Egypt. In fact things worked out so well that he became second in command in Egypt, with only Pharaoh higher.

When Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt to buy grain because of the famine, he could have had his revenge. But that’s not what happened, is it? Instead of acting vengeful, Joseph desired to be reconciled with his family.

*"I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. (Gen 45:4-6)*

I think you will agree that Joseph had every reason to be angry with his brothers, if he chose to be. After all, they had sold him. **SOLD HIM!**

But, in Joseph we have a great lesson in humility, in forgiveness and in reconciliation.

Too often you and I decide that we would rather be right than reconciled. It feels good to be right. The problem comes when we would rather be right than anything else. My grandmother who passed away a number of years ago was one of those people. When she died, she only had one friend in the world...a cousin who lived hundreds of miles away. Grandmom destroyed relationships as a result of her incessant need to be right.

You and I need to be more like Joseph. Why, because he was like Christ. Jesus said,

*“So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24)*

Offering a gift to God is a right thing to do, but even Christ taught that it was more important to be reconciled than right. Do the more important first.

The acts of Christ on our behalf speak to the importance of reconciliation over being right – even in the eyes of God the Father. Romans 6:23 reminds us that *“the wages of sin is death.”*

Therefore, God would be right to put each of us to death for the sins we commit against him. Yet, He made a different choice. God made the choice to be reconciled with you. That repair of our relationship with God is what is accomplished through the willing sacrifice of Christ.

The Father was willing to sacrifice His Son to be reconciled with you, instead of settling for being right. I invite you to look deep inside yourself today. Which is more important to you – being right or being reconciled with those around you?

One last thing...reconciliation begins with *you*. Joseph took the first step in reconciling his relationship with his brothers. God took the first step in becoming reconciled with you through the person of Jesus Christ. Likewise, it is up to you to make the first move...to take the first step...so that you can restore any broken relationships that may be burdening your life.

The Apostle Paul gives us great words to live by on this subject, *“Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.”*

As you come to the Table and receive the Body and Blood of Christ, rejoice that instead of being right, God thought it was more blessed to be reconciled with you. Who do you need to be reconciled with today?