

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

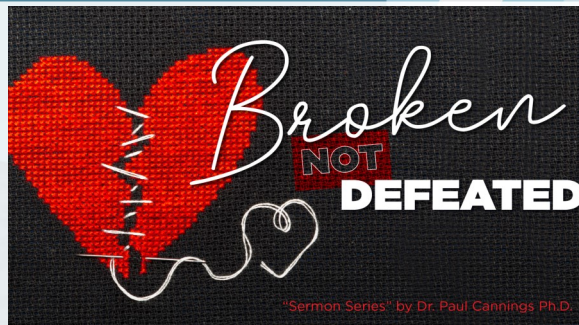
March 14, 2021

Loving those who love us is easy. What is difficult is loving those who do not love us and may not care for us at all. The powerful thing is that the greatest reward is derived when you love those that do not love you. "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Therefore, you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:46-48; NASU) You would probably say the same thing I would say, "How could I be perfect, especially in this area." Well, the scripture teaches us; The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected." (1 John 2:4-5; NASU) To be perfected in love is to obey God's Word as we relate to one another (Matthew 22:36-40; 1 John 4:7-11).



Two families living side by side in the mountains of Kentucky had been fighting and quarreling for years. The feud started when Grandfather Smith's cow jumped over the stone fence of Grandfather Brown and ate his corn. Brown shot the cow. Then one of the Smith boys shot one of the Brown boys, in fact, two of them, while the Browns had shot only one of the Smiths. Bill, the oldest of the Brown family, decided to even up matters, especially since it was his father who had been killed. But Bill was called away to war. While he was away his mother had a hard time providing for the family. One Christmas the head of the Smith family took his wife and children to church. Usually, he stayed outside, but it was so cold he decided to go in and wait. The sermon was on Christ, the Prince of Peace. It struck Smith's heart. On his way home he passed the home of the Browns and he began to realize what a crime he had committed in killing the breadwinner. He prayed. He did more. He determined secretly to help them. He hired a small boy to carry a basket of food to the Browns every day. When Bill came home, and heard of this kindness, he decided to find out who the generous helper was. He followed the little boy—to the door of Smith's house. He could not believe his eyes. Then Smith explained to Bill how he had come to a change of heart. He had heard the story of the Prince of Peace and it had changed him.[1]

"We know love by this that He laid down His life for us; that we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." (1 John 3:16; Romans 12:9-13)



## UPCOMING Events

### NEXT STEPS

#### New Members Classes

The New Member Orientation Class has resumed each **Sunday, from 8am - 10am**, Legacy Fellowship Hall (*in person*). **Online** classes will be at the same time.

#### Please follow these steps:

- Step 1: Go to church's website [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)
- Step 2: Click menu bar (top-right corner)
- Step 3: Click on Resource Center
- Step 4: Scroll to the bottom, click membership interest
- Step 5: Download "New Members Manual"



#### Silver Star Faith Fitness Conference

Faith Fitness and Silver Stars have partnered together to define physical and spiritual wellness in God for seniors! Join the conversation on **March 27th @ 10am** for tips on eating, exercise, and purpose with coach Deanna, because excellence looks good on you!

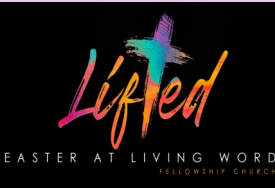


#### Men's Ministry Virtual Fellowship

Join us for our Zoom Men's Conference that will be held on Saturday, **March 20, 2021, from 9am-1pm** with special guest speakers, Dr. Paul Cannings and Dr. Nicolas Ellen of Community of Faith Bible Church.

Registration is \$45 per person | Deadline March 19, 2021. Once you are registered, you will receive an email confirmation with your receipt and a Zoom link to enter the conference.

To register, visit <https://cofbc.org/mensconference2021>



#### Easter at Living Word

JOIN US as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! This **3-day event** will be full of many activities for the entire family!! From the DYNAMIC *Good Friday Service and Worship & Arts Live Production on Fri., April 2nd*, *The Good News Festival on Sat., April 3rd* all the way to the powerful worship and inspiring message on *Sun., April 4th*. This Easter will be one to remember!

Visit the church's website or social media for more information at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/events)

Donation Needed: Please consider donating candy-filled for our festival.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Word of God

Tried and Tested

Genesis 50:15-21

Dr. Paul Cannings, Senior Pastor

Sermon notes available online at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)

Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song

Soft launch for the return of Children's Church is in progress. Children must be picked up **immediately** at the conclusion of each service.

**LEGACY** EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**

**2:30 3:45 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**

**SUNDAY 6:30 PM**

## Tried and Tested

Genesis 50:15-21

### A. The Conscious on Fire (vs. 15; Romans 12:17-21) :

1. Joseph's brothers understood that everything relevant to their father's burial was fully completed.
2. Joseph's brothers said to each other what they were thinking within their hearts.
3. We sometimes think that time heals wounds. Wounds are not healed until we deal with them with a lot of grace, humility, and with a focus on the common good.
4. Jacob died a natural death he was not killed.
5. The brothers believed that Joseph would bear animosity against them, because of an unforgiving heart, which can lead to tragic results for them and their families.
6. They believed that Joseph was always planning in his heart to go back to the point when they betrayed him.
7. They had an extremely negative inner attitude towards God and Joseph and as a result, they cannot live up to the good standards of God as it relates to the jealousy, they felt toward Joseph.
8. They admit that what they set out in their hearts to do to Joseph, they were committed to accomplishing all of it.

### B. Don't Know What to Do (vs. 16-17):

1. They sent a messenger who they know would be committed to let him know to stop them from carrying out their command. They wanted to make sure this message was delivered.
2. The messenger gave to Joseph the exact message that was given to him.
3. They told the messenger to tell Joseph that their father commanded them to tell Joseph what the father had in his heart to say to Joseph all along.
4. Joseph's brothers are saying that they were eyewitnesses to the message the father requested them to tell Joseph.
5. Jacob requested that Joseph remove the debt that was owed to him by his brothers with a clear conscience.

### C. Grace Under Fire (vs. 17c-18):

1. With a very loud and strong outward emotion of grief Joseph wept. Joseph did not cry, he wept, not once but several times, and God made sure it is recorded (42:24; 43:30; 45:2,14; 46:29).
2. Joseph with dynamic motion communicated with their servant. He could have demanded they come and talk directly to him because he had the power to do so. Instead, because of his humility, Joseph served them.
3. Apparently, the servant went and reported what Joseph said to his brothers.

4. When Joseph's brother came to him, they seemed to truly desire coming to him a way of life. This opened the door for a better relationship.
5. To fall or to throw oneself down before someone is to put oneself into the authority or control of that person.
6. Bowing before was different than the time because now the entire incident is the focus.
7. They were telling Joseph to focus on this specific message not their past.
8. They were willing to be his indentured slaves.
9. Joseph said to them what he was thinking in his heart.
10. There was no need to provide him emotional reverence or awe because Joseph was no going to harm them.
11. Joseph could not exchange his place with God to deliver to them an "eye for an eye, or a tooth for a tooth."
12. They created in their minds this evil act after much meditation and no influence from Satan. It was something they skillfully worked at doing and with clever military precision they purposed in their hearts to do him evil.
13. They demonstrated an inability to come up to the good standards of God and this was because they had a very inner negative attitude towards God and Joseph.
14. God meant the evil they intended to do with the same skillfully, clever military precision and with a purposeful heart to do Joseph well. God's every intention was to work this out for good (Romans 8:28). So, every move that was made, even in prison was good.
15. God took the evil they intended and turned it around to provide Joseph a pleasant and excellent life which provided practical, economic benefits for a greater result.

### D. Remember God (vs. 19-21):

1. God did this to establish a legacy based on His creative activity and faithfulness which is due to His ethical obligation and deep commitment to His covenant with Abraham.
2. God saved Joseph and his people to experience a true relationship with God which in turn provides enjoying security, protection, and deliverance. This one day leads to eternal life through Jesus Christ. To protect everyone from evil; God used this to bless everyone with good.
3. Because God intends this for good there was no need to give Joseph emotional reverence or awe. They do not need to worry about him harming them, because Joseph's heart is to please God.
4. Even though the famine had five more years left Joseph committed to providing their families with all the food they need.
5. Joseph's compassion made them breathe out. They were completely convinced that they had no need to fear nor become Joseph's slaves.
6. Joseph's words were spoken with deep feelings towards them and with much wisdom and understanding. He made it clear that he did not have any grudge against them and have absolutely no desire to harm them or their families.
7. When grace came under fire Joseph's commitment to God saved lives and established God's legacy
8. 50:26. Joseph's age. Joseph dies at the age of 110, considered the ideal age for an Egyptian. Examination of mummies has demonstrated that the average life expectancy in Egypt was between forty and fifty years. The use of the coffin or sarcophagus in mummification was an Egyptian, not an Israelite, practice.

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Grieving:** The family of Lillian Edwards, Wilbert Emerson & family, Pat Crawford & family, Myrtle Nichols & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Ogneta Polk & family, Howard Fields & family, Renessa Matthews & family, Debra Gaines & family, Diana Horn & family, Robert James & family, Lee White & family, and Linda Harrison & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Hattie Williams, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Debra Gaines, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, and Jon Heard.

# TRIED AND TESTED

GENESIS 50:15-21