

Tilgiv dog!

22. søn. E. trinitatis, 16.11.2025. LGJ

679, #5, 246, #7, 445 // 437, 430, 167v7-9

1 Mosebog 50,15-21*

Da Josefs brødre så, at deres far var død, sagde de: "Hvad nu, hvis Josef vil stræbe os efter livet og gengælde os alt det onde, vi har gjort mod ham?" De sendte så den besked til Josef: "Din far befalede os før sin død at sige sådan til dig: 'Tilgiv dog dine brødre deres overtrædelse og synd; de handlede ondt mod dig.' Så tilgiv nu den synd, din fars Guds tjenere har begået."

Josef græd over deres ord til ham.

Hans brødre gik til ham, faldt ned for ham og sagde: "Vi vil være dine trælle." Men Josef svarede dem: "Frygt ikke! Er jeg i Guds sted? I udtænkte ondt mod mig, men Gud vendte det til det gode. Han ville gøre det, der nu er sket: holde mange mennesker i live. Frygt derfor ikke! Jeg vil sørge for jer og jeres familier."

Og han trøstede dem og talte kærligt til dem.

Når det handler om skyld og straf og nåde og tilgivelse, er vi tilbøjelige til at tænke, at der er to parter: den skyldige og offeret, de to. Men der er ikke kun to, men tre parter, når vi mennesker har gjort hinanden ondt, eller når nogen har såret os og gjort os ondt.

Beretningen om Josef og hans brødre viser os det. Deres far havde efterladt dem et testamente, som gav dem forsoning og fællesskab. Deres far var den tredje part. Og vi har fået et testamente af en, som er død, og som giver os forsoning og fællesskab.

1. Jakobs Testamente

Testamentet, som deres far havde efterladt dem, blev deres redning og hjalp dem til forsoning og fællesskab.

Deres far hed Jakob. Han havde 12 sønner. De 11 havde kastet den ene i en brønd af misundelse og had. Han hed Josef. De solgte ham til købmænd, som tog ham med til Egypten, hvor han blev slave. Han kom i fængsel og led meget ondt. Men Gud var ham nådig, og han blev Faraos højre hånd. Brødrene bildte deres far ind, at Josef var revet ihjel af et vildt dyr. - Årene gik med løgn, skyld og sorg. - Da kom der tørke og hungersnød. Og brødrene rejste til Egypten for at købe korn for at overleve. Her mødte de Josef, uden at de vidste at det var ham. De fik korn. Og de fandt ud af, at

Please forgive!

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Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph should bear a grudge against us and pay us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, ¹⁷ 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.' And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? ²⁰ "And 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. ²¹ "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. (NAS)

When it comes to guilt and punishment, mercy and forgiveness, we tend to think that there are two parties: the guilty and the victim, the two. But there are actually three parties when we humans have hurt each other, or when someone has hurt us and hurt us.

The account of Joseph and his brothers shows us that. Their father had left them a will that gave them reconciliation and fellowship. And we have received a will from someone who has died and who gives us reconciliation and fellowship.

1. Jakob's Will

The will that their father had left them became their salvation and helped them to reconcile and communion.

Their father's name was Jakob. He had 12 sons. The 11 had thrown one of them, Joseph, into a well of envy and hatred. They sold him to merchants, who brought him to Egypt, where he became a slave. He went to prison and suffered a great deal of pain. But God was merciful to him, and he became Pharaoh's right-hand man. The brothers told their father that Joseph had been torn to death by a wild animal. -

The years went by lies and guilt and sorrow. - Then came drought and famine. And the brothers went to Egypt to buy grain so that they could survive. Here they met Joseph, without knowing that it was him. They got grain and survived. And the brothers and

Josef havde overlevet og var blevet Faraos højre hånd. Deres onde gerninger blev afsløret. Brødrene med deres familier og deres gamle far flyttede til Egypten.

Nu var deres far død. Moses fortæller, at brødrene frygtede for, hvad deres bror nu kunne finde på: ***Da Josefs brødre så, at deres far var død, sagde de: "Hvad nu, hvis Josef vil stræbe os efter livet og gengælde os alt det onde, vi har gjort mod ham?"*** Hvis brødrene og Josef nu havde været alene med den skyld, de havde overfor Josef, kunne de frygte gengæld, når Josef ikke længere skulle tage hensyn til deres far. Men deres far havde efterladt et vigtigt testamente, som blev familiens redning. Det var ikke penge eller ejendom. Heller ikke bebrejdelser. Det var tilgivelse.

"Tilgiv dog dine brødre deres overtrædelse og synd. De handlede ondt imod dig." Den far var klar over, at Josef ikke kunne straffe brødrene, så længe han levede. Men når han var død og borte, kunne det tænkes, at Josef ville skaffe sine brødre af vejen. Havde de fortjent bedre? Nej! Det vidste den gamle Jakob godt. Han kunne jo også huske, hvordan det var, da han selv var ung. Han havde snydt sin bror Esau. Derpå var han flygtet til Karan og havde opholdt sig hos sin morbror Laban, hvor han fandt sin kære hustru: Rakel. Han fik også Lea og to trælkvinder. De fødte ham tolv sønner og en datter. Og da han vendte hjem mange år senere, blev det klart for ham, at det langt fra var sikkert, at hans bror ville tilgive ham. Hele familien holdt vejret i spænding og frygt. Men Gud ændrede Esaus hjerte. Og det umulige skete: de to brødre faldt hinanden om halsen. Esau tilgav Jakob.

Jakob overlevede, fordi han var blevet tilgivet. Tilgivelsen var hans liv. Det blev også hans testamente og det vigtigste, han gav videre til sine voksne børn: Til den ene, til Josef, lød det: ***"Tilgiv dog!"*** Tilgiv, at de kastede dig i en brønd. Tilgiv, at de solgte dig til købmænd. Tilgiv, at de løj for mig i årevis. ***"Tilgiv dog!"***. Og til de andre, brødrene, lød det: ***Sig det til Josef: "Tilgiv dog, vi har handlet ondt mod dig!"*** Dvs. erkend jeres synd overfor ham. Vis ham, at I ikke bare gør det for jeres fars skyld, mens han levede, men at I også mener det, når jeres far er død og begravelet. Sig det til Josef.

Det gjorde de. De kom til ham og bad. ***"Din far befalede os før sin død at sige sådan til dig: 'Tilgiv dog dine brødre deres overtrædelse og synd; de handlede ondt mod dig.' Så tilgiv nu den synd, din fars Guds tjenere har begået." Josef græd over deres ord til ham.***

their families and their old father came to Egypt. And they came to realize that Joseph had survived and was Pharaoh's right hand. Their evil deeds were seen.

Now their father was dead. Moses tells us that the brothers feared what their brother might do next: ***When Joseph's brothers saw that their father had died, they said, "What if Joseph will pursue our lives and repay us for all the evil we have done to him?"***

If the brothers and Joseph had they been alone with the problem one might fear retribution when Joseph no longer had to take their father into account. But their father had left an important will, which became the family's salvation. It was not money or property. Nor reproach, but it was forgiveness.

"Forgive your brethren, however, their transgression and sin. They did evil to you." That father was aware that Joseph could not punish the brothers as long as his father lived. But when the old father was dead and gone, it was conceivable that Joseph would get his brothers out of the way. Did they deserve better? No! Old Jacob knew this well.

He remembered from his own youth what it was like. He had cheated his brother, Esau. He had then fled to Haran and had stayed with his maternal uncle Laban, where he found his dear wife, Rachel. He also married Lea and tog two slave women. They gave birth to his 12 sons + a daughter. And when he returned to Kanaan many years later, it became clear to him that it was far from certain that his brother would forgive him. He could be killed. The whole family held their breath in suspense and fear. But God changed Esau's heart. And the impossible happened: the two brothers fell around each other's necks. Esau forgave Jacob.

Jacob lived because he had been forgiven. Forgiveness was his life. It also became his will, his innermost wish, the most important thing he could pass on to his adult children:

To one of them – to Joseph – it was said: ***"Forgive, I pray you!"*** Forgive them for throwing you into a well. Forgive them for selling you to merchants. Forgive me for lying to me for years. ***"Forgive!"***

And to the others – to the brothers – the will said: ***Say it to Joseph, "Forgive, we pray you!"*** That is, acknowledge to Him your sin. Show him that you are not just doing it for your father's sake while he was alive, but that you also mean it when your father is dead. Tell him for his sake. Do it again.

And they did. They came to him and prayed. ***"Your father commanded us before his death to say to you thus: 'Forgive your brethren their transgression and sin; They did evil to you.' So now forgive the sin that the servants of your father's God have committed." Joseph wept over their words to him.***

Sådan slutter bibelens første bog med en bøn om tilgivelse. En afdød fars ønske! 11 brødres indtrængende bøn. Og den forurettedes tårer. Josef græd.

2. Jesus' testamente

Og hør nu, hvordan Jesus gør dette til en hovedsag for os og viser os, at tilgivelse ikke kun et en sag mellem dig og din næste. Der er ikke kun to, men tre personer involveret, når det handler om synd og skyld og nåde og tilgivelse. Den tredje er Jesus Kristus!

* Søndagens evangelium fortæller os om det, når Peter spørger: *"Herre, hvor mange gange skal jeg tilgive min broder, når han forsynder sig imod mig? Op til syv gange?"* Da svarer Jesus: Ikke syv, men 70 gange! Og så fortæller han om en konge og to tjenere. Jesus blander sig i vort forhold til den, som har gjort os ondt og siger som den gamle far Jakob: *"Tilgiv!"* Gør det igen og igen! Og lignelsen viser os, at det vi skylder hinanden, er småting i forhold til det, vi skylder Gud. - Vi behøver Guds tilgivelse, hvis vi skal leve!

* Også i Fadervor har Jesus lært os, at vor Far i himlen deltager og er med, når vi mennesker er skyldige overfor hinanden: *"Forlad os vor skyld, som også vi forlader vore skyldnere!"* (Matt 6,12).

* Men aller stærkest lyder det, da Jesus indstifter nadveren. Da gav han os det nye testamente ved sit blod til syndernes forladelse: *Og han tog et bæger, takkede, gav dem det og sagde: "Drik alle heraf; dette er mit blod, den nye pagts [eller testamentes] blod, som udgydes for mange til syndernes forladelse."* (Matt 26,27-28)

Jesus har givet os et testamente, som indeholder tilgivelse. Og derfra kommer retten til at leve. Tilgivelsen giver os liv både nu og her, og når vi skal dø. Syndernes forladelse er årsagen til, at vi skal rejses op fra graven til evig salighed hos Gud.

Josef og brødrene fik hjælp fra deres fars testamente: *"Tilgiv dog!"* Og sig til ham: *"Tilgiv dog!"* Bekendt det! Og tilgiv! Det er I fælles om. Og vi får hjælp fra Jesus og hans testamente. Her er hjælp til at indse, hvor smålige vi er, når vi ikke ville eller kunne tilgive, og når vi ikke ville eller kunne indrømme vore synder. Sådan har jeg virkelig været. Det ligger i mit hjerte: småligheden til at tilgive og blive ved. Men også ulysten til at ydmyge mig igen og igen og bede om tilgivelse. Men da hør, hvad det er for et testamente, Jesus har skrevet under på før sin død. Og han underskrev det med sit blod, med sin død. Han bar din brors synd og din ægtefælles smålighed og påståelighed. Han bar også din vrede og uforsonlighed.

This is how the first book of the Bible ends with a prayer for forgiveness. A deceased father's wish! The plea of 11 brothers. And the victim's tears. Joseph wept.

2. Jesus' will / testament

And now hear how Jesus makes this a main issue for us and shows us that forgiveness is not just a matter between you and your neighbor. There are not just two, but three people involved when it comes to sin and guilt and grace and forgiveness. It is the guilty person, the person who was hurt, and Jesus Christ.

* Sunday's Gospel tells us about this when Peter asks: *"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he trespasses against me? Up to seven times?"* Then Jesus answers, "Not seven, but 70 times." And then he tells about a king and two servants. Jesus interferes in our relationship with the one who has hurt us and says like the old father Jacob: *"Forgive!"* Do it again and again! And the parable shows us that what we owe each other are small things compared to what we owe to God. - We need God's forgiveness if we are to live!

* In the Lord's Prayer, too, Jesus taught us that our Father in heaven participates and is present when people are guilty to one another: *"Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors!"* (Matthew 6:12).

* But it is most powerful when Jesus instituted the sacrament. Then he gave us the New Testament by his blood for the remission of sins: ²⁷ *And he took a cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you;"* ²⁸ *This is my blood, the blood of the new covenant [or testament], which is shed for many for the remission of sins.* (Matt. 26:27-28 D92)

Jesus has given us a testament that includes forgiveness. That is his will to us. And from there comes the right to live, there comes life now and here, and life when we are to die, and eternal life when we are to be raised from the grave.

Joseph and the brothers were helped by their father's will to Joseph: *"Forgive, I beg you!"* And to the brothers: *"Ask him, beg him: Forgive us our trespasses."*

And we get help from Jesus: Help to realize how petty we are when we would not or could not forgive. And when we would not or could not admit our sins. That's how I've really been. It's in my heart: the pettiness to forgive and keep going. But also the unwillingness to humiliate myself again and again and ask for forgiveness.

But then hear what kind of testament and will Jesus signed before his death. And he signed it with his

Og hvis vi mangler endnu en grund til at bekende, at vi er smålige mht tilgivelse og har ulyst til at indrømme vore fejl og synder overfor Gud og hinanden, da sig navnet Jesus. For det navn fik han, for at han skulle frelse sit folk fra deres synder!

3. Derfor er I altid tre, når det handler om tilgivelse!

De tre er Jesus, Guds Søn, din modpart og dig selv. Disse tre. Jesus Kristus binder dig sammen med din næste. Se, hvad han gjorde for din næste! Se, hvad han gjorde for dig. Hør, hvad han sagde på korset: "*Fader, tilgiv dem!*" Hør, hvad han også sagde: "*Det er fuldbragt!*" Er der da ikke tilgivelse til din bror fra Frelseren Jesus? Hvem er så vi der ikke vil tilgive? Det nye testamente er netop dette: "Tilgivelse!" "Jeg tilgiver jer!" Det er din sikre grundvold. Der er ikke kun dig og din modpart. Jesus er hos jer med sit testamente.

* Nogle gange er vi måske i Jakobs situation: Du har børn, venner og en kristen søster og bror. Og du betyder noget for dem. De holder fred med hinanden for din skyld. Da sig til dem, hvad Jakob sagde: "Tilgiv dog!" "Og bed om tilgivelse. Bekendt for hinanden!"

* Andre gange er vi i Josefs sted: Du er blevet forurettet og skadet af andre. Der er ingen menneskelig grund til at tilgive. Du mener, at du er i din gode ret til at lade dette dårlige menneske være alene med sin skyld og stege i sit eget fedt. Men gør det ikke! Tilgiv dog! Gør det på grund af Kristus!

* Og atter andre gange er vi i brødrenes sted. Du har ydmyget dig for nogle år siden. Og nu dukker den gamle skyld op igen. Skal du da ydmyge dig igen. Har du da ingen stolthed? Han, som skrev testamente til dig siger "ja!". Ydmyg dig igen! Bed om tilgivelse, og tag imod din brors tilgivelse. Den forener jer.

UANSET hvilken situation vi er i, så er Jesus her og siger, at vi dagligt må bede til vor Far i himlene: "Forlad os vor skyld!" Søndag efter søndag bekender vore synder i kirken og får Guds tilgivelse. Sådan holder han os i live.

Derfor bekender vi frimodigt vor synd for vor næste, for en bror, et medlem i menigheden, ens ægtefælle og midt i familien. Det gør vi, fordi vi er højt elsket af Jesus Kristus. Han giver kraft til at ydmyge sig og til at tilgive hinanden. Amen!

blood, with his death. He bore your brother's sin, your spouse's pettiness and assertiveness, He bore your anger and your unwillingness to say: Please forgive me my trespasses!

And if we lack another reason to confess that we are petty about forgiveness and feel unwilling to admit our mistakes and sins to God and each other, then say the name Jesus. For that name was given to him, that he might save his people from their sins!

3. There are always three persons involved when it comes to forgiveness

The three are Jesus, the Son of God, your brother or sister, and yourself. These three.

Jesus Christ binds you together with your neighbor. Look what he did for your neighbor! See what He did for you.

Hear what He said on the cross: "*Father, forgive them!*" Listen to what he also said: "*It is finished!*" Is there not forgiveness for your brother from the Savior Jesus? Who are we who will not forgive?

The New Testament is just this: "Forgiveness!" "I forgive you!" That is your secure foundation. It's not just you and your counterpart. Jesus is there with his will.

* Sometimes we may find ourselves in Jacob's situation: You have children, friends, a Christian sister and brother, and you mean something to them. They keep peace with each other for your sake. Then tell them what Jacob said, "Forgive!" "And ask for forgiveness."

* Other times you are in Joseph's place: You have been wronged and harmed by others. There is no human reason to forgive. You believe that you have the right to leave this bad person alone with his guilt and fry in his own fat. Don't do it! However, forgive. Do it because of Christ!

* And at other times you are in the place of the brothers. You humiliated yourself once a few years ago. And now the old guilt reappears. Should you humble yourself again? Do you have no pride?

NO MATTER what our situation, Jesus is here and tells us to pray daily to our Father in the heavens, "Forgive us our debts!" Sunday after Sunday, confess our sins in church and receive God's forgiveness.

Then we boldly confess our sin to your neighbor – your brother, a member of the church and in the family we are loved by Jesus Christ. He gives us the power to humble ourselves and to forgive each other. Amen!