

# THINKING AND DOING THE UNTHINKABLE AND UNDOABLE

## GENESIS 42:1-28

*The following are resource questions that you can use with your Care Group for discussion. They are based on the sermon preached on Sunday, October 17, 2010, by Rev (Dr) Arnold Wong at the Grace Baptist Church, Singapore. The sermon is available online at <http://www.gracebap.org.sg/worship/series.html>.*

**OCTOBER 17, 2010**

### INTRODUCTION:

God so moved and arranged events that twenty years after the crime, all the guilty offenders were delivered to the very doorstep of the brother they had offended. What would come out of your heart in that moment? Would it be twenty years of hatred from the pen-up hurt and grief? If those feelings had been inside Joseph, clearly that would have come out.

But it is obvious that God had been working in Joseph's heart – molding and shaping events in such a way that Joseph recognized that all his days were under the sovereign, providential care of a God who love him with an everlasting love. Now that Joseph has power in his hands...what would he do, to the very same people who had caused him much hurt and pain...separating him from family and depriving him the warmth and love of family?

Instead of lashing out against them in murderous hatred and vengeance, Joseph filled their bags with grain and said, "Take this back for your starving households" (v.19). Let's remember that these brothers hated Joseph and had once said, "We'll make sure you do not rule over us. We'll have none of that."

Joseph attitude is characteristic of someone who has truly tasted the loving-kindness of God:

1. Responded instead of Retaliation
2. Reserved judgment instead of Pronouncement of guilt
3. Re-directed his thoughts towards his brothers instead of self

### DISCUSSION:

1. Society tells us that we should seek justice from those who maligns, slander, hurt, or even destroyed our lives... how can Christian respond to those who caused us pain and grief?
2. What are some of the tangible things we can do that will not only mitigate our feelings of hurt and pain but also to move beyond ourselves into the very people who caused us the pain?
3. What are some of the reason why we sometimes cannot "be like Christ" and justifies our inaction or inability to respond the way we know God would want us to respond?
4. Re-evaluate your life to see areas where you were in Joseph's brothers shoes and might have inadvertently caused pain and grief to another person...this is a time of confession and ask God for forgiveness and allow you to change.

### PRAYER:

*Father, if we have been hurt by others, help us to respond as Christ would have done; if we have been guilty of inflicting pain and grief to others, we seek Your forgiveness and ask for the ability to undo our wrongs. Amen.*