**Am I in the Place of God?**

**Part-1**

 **God Meant it for Good- A study of the life of Joseph- (Part 21)**
(Pastor John Mulligan)

**Genesis 50:14-20 (ESV)**

Genesis 50:14-21

After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. (15) When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."

 (16) So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: (17) 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you."' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. (18) His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."

(19) But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? (20) As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (21) So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

1. **We all need a realistic appraisal of sin**
* **It’s evil and can leave hurt and revenge in its wake.**

Genesis 50:15

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."

* **It leaves us feeling guilty even years later**

Genesis 50:16-17

So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: (17) 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you."' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

* **The offender and the offended need to call it what it is**

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

**2) We all need a realistic appreciation of God’s sovereignty.**

* **Payback (vengeance) Is God’s let go of bitterness.**

Genesis 50:19

But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?

Romans 12:17-19 (NIV)

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18**If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19**Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

* **God can work good in all things for His children to His glory.**

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.