

## Solving Word Problems — Part 4: Gonna Come Around

Sunday, March 1, 2020

*What goes around often comes around. The powerless often find themselves in a position of power and the people who hurt us may someday need us. In the moments when we've got those people right where we want 'em, what we say will say as much about us as anything else. If our words are stones, will we choose to throw them, or use them to pave the way forward?*

### Read Genesis 37:12-36

- What are some of the things you identify Joseph's brothers did to cause him harm?
- How might you have felt if you were in Joseph's situation?
- What type of "what goes around comes around" justice might you be hoping for?

### Read Genesis 39:1-23

- What tension do you experience between the line that God was with Joseph so that he prospered and the reality that Joseph was a slave in Potiphar's household?
- How would you describe what it might be/feel like to be accused (and convicted) of something you did not do?
- What does it say about Joseph's character, loyalty and relationship with God that he continually refused the advances of Potiphar's wife?

### Read Genesis 42:1-38 (43 & 44)

- What are some ways that Joseph's brothers have to come to him for food and bow down before him be "what goes around comes around"?
- In what ways do Joseph's actions toward his brothers appear to be setting up a "what goes around comes around" payback situation?
- What would you be looking forward to most if you were in Joseph's position?

### Read Genesis 45:1-28

- Why do you think Joseph could no longer withhold his identity from his brothers?
- How would you feel in that moment of revelation if you were one of the brothers? What would you be expecting to happen?
- What does it say about Joseph's character and relationship with God that he sent for his father and pledged to take care of his family for the rest of their lives?
- In what ways did how Joseph handle things extend beyond just him and his family?
  
- What are some ways you can believe God is with you in all circumstances? How does believing that influence the way you live?
- What is one step you can take to choose and use words that transform "what goes around comes around"?