

# Abiding Guilt

*Genesis 50:13-21*

Unresolved guilt can remain with a person for many, many years. The brothers of Joseph offer a key example of this. The reason for their guilt is obvious. They **felt guilt** because they **were guilty** of a great crime. After being overwhelmed with envy and hatred toward Joseph, they decided to murder him (*Gen. 37:20*). Reuben's Plan B was to throw him into a pit, so that he might rescue him later (*Gen. 37:22*). Judah's Plan C was to sell him as a slave to a band of Ishmaelites who were headed to Egypt (*Gen. 37:25-27*). This they did. To compound their sin, they deceived their father, making him think Joseph was killed by a wild animal (*Gen. 37:31-33*). Inwardly they were pricked, knowing that they were the cause of their father's unrestrained grief (*Gen. 37:33-35*).



Many years passed. The brothers went to Egypt to obtain food and the “governor of the land” treated them very strangely. Eventually Joseph revealed himself to his brothers. Instead of rejoicing that he was alive and well, they were terrified due to their unresolved guilt (*Gen. 45:3*). Joseph assured them of his love and that God had a plan for all that had happened (*Gen. 45:4-8*). Joseph and the Egyptians treated the brothers very well.

More time passed until finally Jacob died. The guilt of the brothers surfaced once again, believing that Joseph would repay them for the evil which they had done (*Gen. 50:15*). Joseph had to reassure them once again of his love and forgiveness, and that God used all these things to save the nation (*Gen. 50:19-21*).



Dear child of God, it is easy to have our conscience plagued by thoughts of all of our past sins, for they are many and they are great. **How we need to fully claim the complete forgiveness that we have in Jesus Christ (*Eph. 1:7*)!**

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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