**Titus Women’s Discipleship Summit**

**30 Days of Devotions**

***“Abide in Me and I in You ... the Key John 15:4*.”**

Day 20

**10** *“Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.*

***11b*** *Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.* ***12****Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.* ***13****Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.  . . .****17****And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.”* Colossians 3:10,11b-13,17 (NLT)   Please read Colossians 3:1-17

Joseph, a favorite of his father, was resented by his brothers. The brothers wanted to be rid of Joseph and decided to be done with him once and for all. They cooked up a story that he was eaten by a wild animal, when in fact they sold him into slavery. Joseph was later sold to Potiphar, who was an officer of Pharaoh. That may not have been too bad, except Potiphar’s wife wanted Joseph for herself. When Joseph did not reciprocate, she accused him of assaulting her, and Joseph ended up in prison. Later, Joseph finds himself in a high-ranking position in Egypt, of which was in the middle of a famine. Joseph’s brothers must travel to Egypt for grain or they would have starved. In the end Joseph reveals himself to his father and brothers, who believed he was dead. Joseph and his family were reconciled; however, a lot of years were lost being separated. **1**

Forgiveness, offering it or receiving it, may not be easy, but it’s life giving.  Just because we ask for or offer forgiveness, it doesn’t mean the other person is willing to comply. The details that surround forgiveness can be painful, and may complicate forgiveness for yourself, or for someone else. For me, forgiveness was more of a process than a single decision. Jesus said,*“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.***2** Jesus will give you and I His strength to forgive and be forgiven.

Would you read the above scripture in Colossians one more time? If you have your Bible handy, read 3:1-17. Look at verses 10-11,  **10** *“Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.* ***11b*** *Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.*

We need to learn to become like Jesus. He lives within us, which makes forgiveness possible. Abide in Jesus. Be a branch and stay attached to the Vine.

Pray with me.

*Father, this devotional has been by your design today. You know the heart of each person reading this and know the heartache of unforgiveness that some may carry. Lord, I ask that You reveal any place there is unforgiveness. (pause) Lord, I need Your strength and direction, I trust You. I give You all of me. I choose to abide in You.*

*In Your Name Jesus, Amen*

*Marilyn LeFevre*

**1** Genesis 37-50; **2** John 15:5 (NASB)