

THE TORAH OF LEADERSHIP

Burying Issues | Erica Brown | January 13, 2021



Genesis 50:14-21

וַיֵּשֶׁב יוֹסֵף מִצְרָיִם הוּא וְאֶחָיו וְכָל־הָעֲלִיּוֹת אִתּוֹ לִקְבֹּר אֶת־אֲבִיָּו אֲחֵרֵי קָבְרוּ אֶת־אֲבִיָּו:

וַיֵּרְאוּ אֶת־יִוְסֵף כִּי־מָת אָבִיהֶם וַיֹּאמְרוּ לוֹ יִשְׁטַמְנוּ יוֹסֵף וְהַשֵּׁב יָשִׁיב לָנוּ אֶת כָּל־הָרָעָה אֲשֶׁר גָּמְלָנוּ אִתּוֹ:

וַיֹּצִיאוּ אֶל־יִוְסֵף לֵאמֹר אָבִיךָ צָוָה לִפְנֵי מוֹתוֹ לֵאמֹר:

כִּה־תֵאמְרוּ לַיּוֹסֵף אֲנֵנוּ שָׂא נָא פֶשַׁע אֲחֵיךָ וְחַטָּאתָם כִּי־רָעָה גָּמְלוּךָ וְעַתָּה שָׂא נָא לִפְשַׁע עַבְדֵי אֱלֹהֵי אָבִיךָ וַיִּבְרַךְ יוֹסֵף בְּדַבְרָם אֵלָיו:

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וַיִּלְכֹּד גַם־אֶחָיו וַיִּפְלוּ לְפָנָיו וַיִּאמְרוּ הִגַּנוּ לָךְ לַעֲבָדִים:

וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם יוֹסֵף אֶל־תִּירְאוּ כִּי הִתַּחַת אֱלֹהִים אָנִי:

וְאַתֶּם חָשַׁבְתֶּם עָלַי רָעָה אֱלֹהִים חָשְׁבָה לְטוֹבָה לְמַעַן עֲשֶׂה פְּנֵים הַזֶּה לְהַחְיֵת עַם־רַב:

וְעַתָּה אֶל־תִּירְאוּ אֲנֹכִי אֲכַלְכֵּל אֶתְכֶם וְאֶת־טַפְכֶּם וַיְנַחֵם אוֹתָם וַיְדַבֵּר עִלְיָהֶם:

After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrong that we did him!" So they sent this message to Joseph, "Before his death your father left this instruction:

So shall you say to Joseph, 'Forgive, I urge you, the offense and guilt of your brothers who treated you so harshly.' Therefore, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph was in tears as they spoke to him.

His brothers went to him themselves, flung themselves before him, and said, "We are prepared to be your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Have no fear! Am I a substitute for God? Besides, although you intended me harm, God intended it for good, so as to bring about the present result—the survival of many people. And so, fear not. I will sustain you and your children." Thus he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reflective Question

Think of an issue/problem that you thought you buried, but which resurfaced later.

Leadership Challenge

How can you re-surface a leadership issue that was buried, but has not been fully resolved?