

**RaYBaSH's Torah Thoughts for Kids**  
**Parashah # 9 Vayeshev "And He Dwelt"**  
**Gen. 37:1-40:23**  
**By: Yehudah ben Shomeyr**

**Gen. 37:28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.**

**Gen 45:5-7 5Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.**

Once Avi was walking home from school, but when he passed the old abandoned gas station on his way home some neighborhood boys were spraying the walls with spray paint. They saw him and then they jumped out and began teasing him and calling names as they pushed him around. The boys had cans of spray paint in their hand and they sprayed Avi's cloths with it.

That night Mr. O'Malley called Avi's house telling his parents that he was at his property at the old abandoned gas station with the police. Avi was scared he thought he would be blamed for the graffiti on the walls.

As Avi and his parents arrived at the old abandoned gas station owned by Mr. O'Malley, they saw Mr. O'Malley, the Police Officer and the boys who attacked him. As they stepped out of the car the Police Officer said, "Avi, we have several witnesses that say they saw you here with these boys yesterday."

Avi got a sick feeling in the pit of his stomach. He thought for sure he was in trouble.

"We know you had nothing to do with the graffiti." The Police Officer continued.

Mr. O'Malley said, "We know it was these boys who spray painted on my walls and we know they roughed you up and ruined your clothes. So we will make sure these boys pay for a new outfit for you."

Then the Police Officer spoke up, “Avi, these boys have been in trouble many time before, but since you were the victim we will let you decided what should be done to them. They could;

1. Be sent to a juvenile detention center for boys.
2. Be put on probation and do community service for six months.
3. Let them go.”

Avi could see the boys were terrified what he might decide. Part of him wanted them to really pay for what they did to him. But Avi remembered the story of Joseph; how his brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt and yet when it was all said and done he ended up becoming second in command of Egypt. And was powerful enough to get his brothers back for what they did to him, but instead Joseph forgave them.

But Avi also remembered the Torah demanded justice, so Avi spoke up. “How about they clean up Mr. O’Malley’s Property and then be let go. You know, have the punishment fit the crime.”

Mr. O’Malley and the Police Officer thought it was a good idea. Just as Avi and his Parents were about to get into the care, one of the boys spoke up. “Hey, why didn’t you decide to send us off to Juvie Hall?”

“Because I forgive you.” Avi replied.

The boys looked at each other and all began to apologize to Avi and one of them even shook his hand and said, “Thanks.”

Shabbat Shalom and Shavuah Tov!

-- Yehudah ben Shomeyr