

Title: Asking Forgiveness

Scripture: **Genesis 50:15-21**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Commentary:

Last week, several members mentioned a desire to understand more about the protests occurring, specifically from a data standpoint. As if through Divine Providence a member of Redeemer shared the Times article based on a data analysis provided by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), which I have also included here. There is much to dive into and I believe this will lead us to a very interesting conversation.

In the News

93% of Black Lives Matter Protests Have Been Peaceful, New Report Finds

The vast majority of Black Lives Matter protests—more than 93%—have been peaceful, according to a new report published Thursday by a nonprofit that researches political violence and protests across the world.

The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) analyzed more than 7,750 Black Lives Matter demonstrations in all 50 states and Washington D.C. that took place in the wake of George Floyd's death between May 26 and August 22.

Their report states that more than 2,400 locations reported peaceful protests, while fewer than 220 reported "violent demonstrations." The authors define violent demonstrations as including "acts targeting other individuals, property, businesses, other rioting groups or armed actors." Their definition includes anything from "fighting back against police" to vandalism, property destruction looting, road-blocking using barricades, burning tires or other materials. In cities where protests did turn violent—these demonstrations are "largely confined to specific blocks," the report says.

Read 93% of Black Live Matter Protests Have Been Peaceful, New Report Finds, by Sanya Mansoor in Time magazine. [https://time.com/5886348/report-peaceful-protests/?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=social-share-article&utm-term=us\\_protests&fbclid=IwAR2jhVCSU6zpRa59Bs\\_p0us3W2p30yQM4YZSqvmHr5sUNL-ISXyPHzOU2g](https://time.com/5886348/report-peaceful-protests/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=social-share-article&utm-term=us_protests&fbclid=IwAR2jhVCSU6zpRa59Bs_p0us3W2p30yQM4YZSqvmHr5sUNL-ISXyPHzOU2g)

Additional Source - This is the site of the report mentioned in the article:  
<https://acleddata.com/special-projects/us-crisis-monitor/>