

# *Power of Forgiveness*

Elsa Joseph was a Jewish woman who was cut off from her two children, both girls, during World War II.

Years later, she discovered that both of her daughters had been gassed at Auschwitz, the largest of the German concentration camps.



A former concert violinist, Elsa's response to this tragic news was to pick up her violin and go and play it in Germany. And there in the homeland of her children's murderers, she played her violin and told her story that cried out to heaven for vengeance.

But she did not seek vengeance. She spoke of the world's deep need for reconciliation and forgiveness, without which it was tearing itself apart.

"If I, a Jewish mother, can forgive what happened," she said to her audiences, not only in Germany but in Northern Ireland, in Lebanon, and in Israel, "then why can you not sink your differences and be reconciled to one another?"

What an amazing example of grace and forgiveness!

But let's make it personal.

Most likely, you have not had to suffer the horrible impact of having a family member murdered, as did Ms. Joseph.

But we do from time to time become the subject of ridicule, gossip, unkind words or actions that may harm us physically or emotionally. Anger and the desire to retaliate can be natural responses.

Think about it: Is there a grudge, bitterness or resentment you are carrying around that needs to be released, bringing you freedom? Is there someone you need to forgive?

Maybe it's time.

– Beecher Hunter