

Times of Uncertainty – Joseph

“Therefore, we will not fear though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.” (Psalm 46:2) What do you do when everything in life seems to go so wrong, and everything just keeps going from bad to worse? What started out with self-isolations, has turned into school closures. What started out with social distancing, has now turned into store closures and work layoffs. Will the coronavirus soon cause us to shelter in place? Will the coronavirus cause everything to come to a halt? At times, it just seems everything has gone from bad to worse, and just keeps going from bad to worse.

But even though the earth seems to be giving way and the mountains seem to be falling into the heart of the sea, the reason we do not fear is because *“God is our refuge and strength an ever-present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)* This was especially true for Joseph during his time of uncertainty.

Joseph was son of Jacob, the first son born to Jacob by his beloved wife Rachel. You may remember that Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors out his love for him. The Lord also gave Joseph a dream foretelling of a future rise to power. But these blessings only aroused the jealousy and hatred of his brothers. Then everything started to go from bad to worse. One day out in the field, Joseph’s brothers seized him and sold him off into slavery to get rid of him. The brothers told their father that Joseph was attacked by an animal and was now dead. Meanwhile, Joseph was taken to Egypt and sold off as a slave to an Egyptian official.

For 10 years, Joseph faithfully served his master, until things again went from bad to worse. One day his master’s wife tried to have an affair with Joseph, but when he refused she lied and claimed Joseph tried to rape her. Joseph was then thrown into prison and there he would sit for 2 years, the worst 2 years of his life. Could Joseph’s life get any worse? What more could happen to him that was not already done to him? It was a great time of uncertainty. Would Joseph sit the rest of his life in prison and then die? What would it matter, nobody seemed to care.

But God cared. God never left Joseph. Despite the unjust and turbulent world that was Joseph’s life, God was working behind the scenes to work everything out for Joseph’s good. There in the prison God would give Joseph the ability to interpret dreams, a gift that would bring Joseph into Pharaoh’s presence and would eventually lead to Joseph becoming ruler of all Egypt. None of it would have been possible without Joseph’s suffering. A reminder that God can bring good through suffering.

*Think for a moment and answer.....*Can you think of any good that may come out of this world’s present suffering?

We have a God who has given us his only Son, who by his death on a cross has paid for our sins and through his resurrection has given us forgiveness and eternal life. As we go through our earthly sufferings, let us remember we are the children of God by faith. Our God is with us. He cares. His love is our certainty even in times of earthly uncertainty.

Read Genesis 40-41 as today’s Scripture lesson.

Blessings to you and your families,
Pastor Guse