

The Fall and Rise of Joseph

Today we are looking at the amazing life of Joseph in Genesis.

Jacob, who was also known as Israel, was Joseph's father and he had 12 sons and one daughter from 2 wives (Leah and Rachel who were sisters) and 2 concubines (Bilhah and Zilpah who were the wives' respective maids).

Joseph's difficulties with his brothers, beyond the normal annoying things boys will do, started when his father Jacob favoured him over them and gave him a beautiful coat. Then to top off this brewing animosity, Joseph has two vivid dreams which show them bowing down to him. This made them even more angry, and they ended up selling him to traders, who then sold him in Egypt.

Joseph certainly experienced a roller coaster of events, but each, in the hand of God, had a purpose.

Who would have thought that a young man abandoned by his closest relatives to a difficult life, would end up being the means through which God saves them.

With hindsight, we can see that the hand of God was at work bringing good out of bad, even though this wasn't apparent at the time.

And that is one of the points of the story that challenges us. Sometimes we feel that life's events just overtake us, and we can end up feeling a bit worse for wear. It is only God who sees it all and understands why things happen the way they do. We are to trust that He has everything in hand for us. As Jesus said:

Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your heart be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27