

Today's reading was a long one. We're covering the whole life of Joseph in just two minutes. And it doesn't fully grasp everything that really happened in his life. You know it's, he's having the dream and he's moving on. We left so much out about what happened to him and what happened to Jacob in this process. And there's a lot of grief in this process. There's a lot of grief through this whole story, and what's going on with them. When I was reading it, the first time I thought I got confused. I got confused because I was like, which Joseph is this? Because there's a lot; there's a lot in the Bible. Now Joseph's such an uncommon name today, I can only imagine back then. And I'm thinking okay, so is this the same Joseph that had the multi-color coat. And then I started thinking, am I making this up? So I grabbed another Bible, and I read it. And it said the same thing. I grabbed another Bible, and I read it. And it said the same thing. And then I grabbed the third Bible and it said that it was a multi-colored coat, not a robe. And then I grabbed another Bible, because I've got a lot of Bibles. I know it's hard to believe. And half of them say it was a long robe, and half of them say it was a multi-color coat. Does it matter, besides driving me crazy all week? It does. The reason that it got changed was one of the translations. In the original Hebrew, the jacket, the robe, is described as a long robe with long sleeves. But in the Greek translations, they called a multi-color coat. And the reason that they call it a multi-colored coat is because they recognize Joseph is different than everybody else. They recognized just in reading Genesis and reading Samuel that Joseph was special, that he wasn't like everybody else. He wasn't like his other brothers or his sister. He wasn't like anybody else during that time.

And it's important, it's important that this entire culture who had nothing to do with this man during his life recognized how special he was, and it wasn't because of his dreams. It was because of who he was as a person. He was different than everybody else. He was different than his brothers. And the Greeks recognize this. It wasn't from the dream. It's huge. If you remember at this time, Jacob has done so much. He's wrestled with God. His father's brother. He's made it out to Cannon, he's thinking okay, I've disowned three of my sons. I've got nine more, everything should be fine. And then he made the robe, because Joseph was his favorite. Now, our version of the Bible says that Joseph loved him because he was old when he had him. I can understand that. I was old when we had our daughter. I'm old now and she's not. But was that why? Jacob loved Joseph more, or was it, because of his mom? Cuz Joseph wasn't the youngest of them all. He was the third youngest.

So, Jacob's showing favoritism, and that's going to make a lot of them mad, especially the three brothers that have been disowned at this point. Because Reuben's been disowned, Simeon and Levi, all for things that they've done. So, Judah now is the eldest. He's the one who should be making the decisions. He's the one who should be doing these things. And now his younger brother is coming up and he's telling them, you're gonna have to do everything I say because I dreamed it. If you have siblings, you can understand that that'd be really hard to swallow, especially if it's the younger one, bossing you around. (She's laughing over there.) So what would you do? What would you do if you had a younger sibling coming through and telling you, you're going to do everything they say no matter what. I've had that happen. It has not gone well for anybody, but not to that point.

So Joseph gets taken. They throw them in a pit. He gets bought by his cousins and sold to Egypt. But then he's in jail for a very, very long time. But he never loses faith. He never loses his faith. He still believes that God put him there for a reason and that's really hard to swallow. So many times in our life, everything wrong happens. This week so many wrong things have happened to so many people but they continue to have faith. It's like Joseph. They continue to believe that each morning is going to be better. They continue to believe that if they do the right thing, God will watch out for him. And he does. He takes this man, this man that his brothers have set aside, this man that his cousins have sold into servitude. This man that got arrested and thrown in prison for not doing the wrong thing, for continuing to do the right thing. He was arrested, He helped people get out of jail who are supposed to help him, and they didn't. They let him sit there, but he never lost faith. He believed that God put him there for a reason. God allowed him to wake up every morning. God put him In the position that he needed to be to help others. It's hard to believe that sitting in jail you're going to be in a position to help others, but he was. Then he got to have some fun. He helped Pharaoh; Pharaoh put him in charge of all of Egypt. And his brothers had to come and ask him for help. No, they didn't know they were asking him because last time they saw him, he was naked down on the bottom of a pit and was 17. Now, he's older, gray, more mature And they have to come to him. But they don't bring all of the brothers. They leave one, so he makes them go back and get them. He makes them go get their last brother, and he has them all come back, and they all have to bow to him.

So was his dream a prophecy of God or was his dream self fulfilled? He could have just as easily given them what they needed. What they wanted without making them go get Benjamin. Did he make him go get him because that was God's will? Or did he have him Go get him so he could see his brother? He could fulfill his own prophecy.

It's a hard question.

And the answer. Wednesday morning. Nine o'clock downstairs. No, no, I'm teasing. I'm teasing. I don't know the answer. We do a lot of things like that. We do the right thing because we're supposed to do the right thing. We get told that we're going to do things because that's who we are in our lay lives. How many times have you said to somebody, you expected them to do that? You expected them to be late. You expected them to make a mess. You expected them to forget to call, or to forget to respond to an email, or to forget to answer text. You expected it because that's how those people are. Is that how those people are? Or is that how we made them?

If you tell a lie often enough, it becomes the truth. It becomes the truth to every person. You tell it too because they start to believe it. If you tell a child that they are worthless, they'll believe it. If you tell somebody that they don't belong because they have a different political view, because they have a different religious view, because they don't fit your mold of what you want, they'll start to believe it. They'll start to believe all the lies that are told to them. They'll start to believe that they are told they're terrible and they'll be that way. I have a friend. I've spoken about him before. He's on his fourth marriage. And each time he gets married, his wife tells him, I know you're going to cheat on me and he does. Every time he fights it for as long as he can. But

eventually he does because she's expecting him to. She's expecting him to do these big things. These behaviors and no matter how hard he tries, he still does it. He believes that vision of himself.

In Wednesday's class. There's a little boy and when they started preschool together, this little boy was quiet, sat in the back. He hid; he didn't talk to anyone. He didn't interact with anybody, but then he started hanging out with Wednesday. And I started talking to him. I asked him one day, "Why, why do you always sit off on the side?" "That's just what I'm supposed to do." Well, this Friday, this little boy was out at the Jungle Jubilee for Homecoming, and he was taking children by the hand, and he was running up to all the activities. He was leading kids that were hiding in the corner. And I asked him. Why are you taking all these kids? "Because that's what we do." "What do you mean? That's what we do." He's like, "Each day. Wednesday told me we needed to grab somebody. So we did." Each day he helped more people all because of a couple times somebody told him that they believed in him. That's the difference. We unintentionally tell people the wrong thing all the time, But we can take that 10 milliseconds and just tell somebody that they're right. That they're valuable. They mean something. An entire culture recognizes the fact that this man was different when his brothers didn't see it. When his cousins didn't see, They recognized that he was so special, they created an entire version, a different version, of him in the Bible.

And it just takes one person to do that for somebody else. It's a beautiful thing. Let us pray.