

Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. (Genesis 37:26-27)

In our Confirmation classes right now we are studying the books of the Old Testament and this story of Joseph came up last weekend. Most of the youth have heard about it before or have seen some sort of theatre production of it such as **Joseph and the Many Coat of Colors**. It's a fun production but have you ever thought about this story from Joseph's point of view? I mean, that every day when they sold him was not a good day for Joseph.

Have you ever felt like nothing in your life could go right? If so, you might have felt like Joseph. Throughout his life, Joseph experienced a variety of pain and difficult times. From his brothers selling him into slavery to being unfairly locked away in prison, Joseph experienced rough times. But as we know several thousands years later, God had a plan. God has a plan for all of us.

In the end, God used Joseph to interpret dreams, help a whole nation prepare for famine, and save millions of lives. Earlier in Joseph's life, God made him a promise that Joseph would eventually bring God glory and save lives. Little did Joseph know that those promises would be fulfilled! Thousands of years later, there would be someone else to keep all of God's promises and save more lives than Joseph could have ever imagined. That person is the one whom we are waiting for and preparing for in our time... Jesus the Christ.

There are many similarities in the story of Joseph and Jesus. For example, God turns bad situations into God inspired moments of greatness! Are there hard times in your life that God had used for good? For me, these moments were hard to get through, but I learned from each one of them and have grown to be a much stronger person emotionally and SPIRITUALLY because of them. God has taken me and fulfilled God's promise to love and walk with me through every situation life brings.

Christ comes to us this season and through living our faith fully we are strengthened in the promises of God! Yes! Amidst our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us! God comes to us in human flesh so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world!

Here are some important facts on the **SEASON OF ADVENT**. All these fact can be seen within our worship!

- "Advent" is a Latin word meaning "coming."
- Candles: celebrate the Light of the World, God's Son who overcomes the darkness in our lives.
- Advent Wreath: circle of candles representing our hope in the Light of the World. Lighting a new advent Candle each week marks our Advent journey to the Christ Child.
- Advent color BLUE symbolizes the HOPE of God's people who trust in their unfailing Lord and King.

Peace of the Lord be with you!

Pastor Tony