



Grain

“Real prayer helps you to live in the beauty of truth.”

–John O’Donohue

Submitted by Lou Ann Petersen, Lake Nebagamon, WI

Field

3Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. 4But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. 5Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: 7We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it...” 23So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; 24and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. 28When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt. Genesis 37:3-5, 23-24 & 28

Thoughts

A friend talked about how much she resented her brother while growing up. He not only was very gifted but had the sort of charisma that drew “everyone” in. She told a story about her family visiting some friends when their host’s pet bird got loose. Everyone was trying to catch the bird when suddenly it landed on her brother’s shoulder and remained calmly. “Even the birds were attracted to him,” she said with a laugh. My friend was also very gifted and felt loved by her family. There was plenty of room in life for both of them to thrive and eventually laugh at each other and themselves.

Can you imagine Joseph’s brothers sharing entertaining stories about Joseph? “He even got the great dreams. And he sure was cocky about it. Ha ha. Thank God he finally grew up.” An unlikely conversation in a dysfunctional household with a father narrowly focused on one child, which ignited such an extreme reaction from the other children. How could the brothers squelch Joseph’s dreams, get rid of him, and escape the pain of not feeling valued by their father? Selling him into slavery should do it, but actually didn’t. What would? Which truths did they need to envision, not only about what was rough and seemed unfair, but what was good and possible?

Jacob’s (Israel’s) family was complex. The maltreatment Joseph experienced is unimaginable to most of us. God remained with Joseph and years later, opened a door to reconciliation for the brothers which may or may not have lasted. God’s world, not to be confused with Jacob’s or anyone else’s, continues to unfold as it has throughout history via real people regardless of how or why they may have experienced injustice. The reign of God is here inviting all of us in. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy