

Church Together

Joseph – Silver & Slavery

28th April 2024

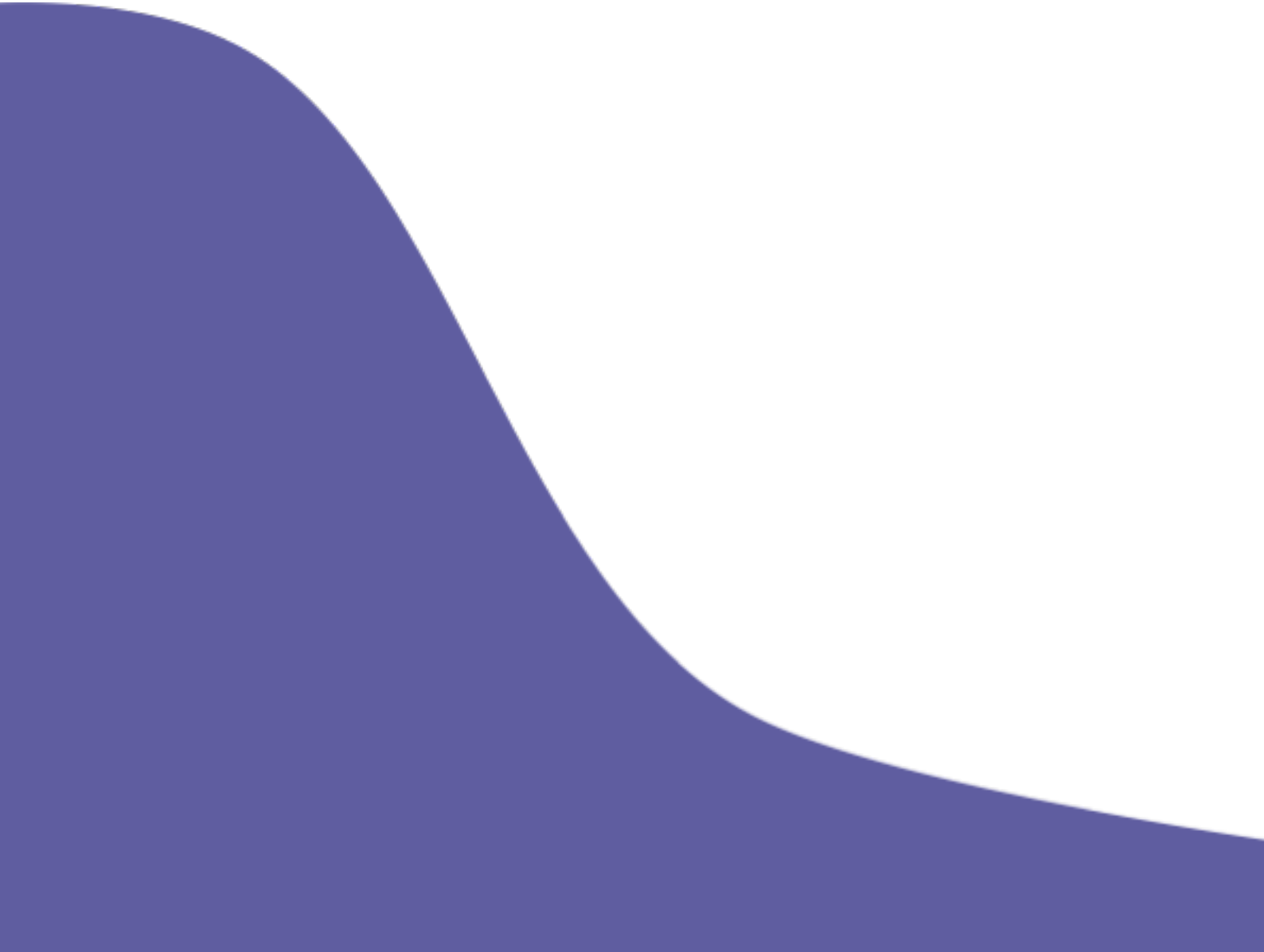


Welcome

Today's Service we will be looking at: **Genesis 37 v. 12 - 36**

The theme for our service today is: **Joseph - Silver & Slavery**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Know That God Holds The Future, Even If We Don't Know What The Future Looks Like!**



Call To Worship

Psalm 62 v. 5 – 8 NLT

I wait quietly before God,

For my hope is in him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,

My fortress where I will not be shaken.

My salvation and my honour come from God alone.

He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy Can reach me.

O my people, trust in him at all times.

Pour out your heart to him,

For God is our refuge.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you declared yourself the way, the truth, and the life. Reveal to us today we pray, your truth, and inspire us with your life, that now and at all times we may find in you the way to the Father.

We proclaim this day that Christ Jesus is Lord. For the God who said: 'Out of darkness light shall shine', has caused his light to shine in our hearts, the light which is the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. So be among us today Lord in our time together, for we ask these things in your precious name.

Amen

**The FREEDOM
of
sonship**



Song Suggestion

Come Let Us Sing Of A Wonderful
Love



If our definition of freedom is not based on the Biblical definition, then it is not true freedom. Jesus said that the truth would set us free.

Since Jesus Himself is
The Truth,
His words to us will free us.

Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



Bible Reading

Genesis 37 v. 12 – 36 NIV

Joseph Sold By His Brothers

12 Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, 13 and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem.

Come, I am going to send you to them."

"Very well," he replied.

14 So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me."

Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, 15 a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

16 He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?" 17 "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. 18 But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. 20 "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. 22 "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— 24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

25 As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

26 Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

28 So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

29 When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. 30 He went back to his brothers and said, “The boy isn’t there! Where can I turn now?”

31 Then they got Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. 32 They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, “We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son’s robe.”

33 He recognized it and said, “It is my son’s robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces.”

34 Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. 35 All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “No,” he said, “I will continue to mourn until I

join my son in the grave.” So his father wept for him.

36 Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard.

Song Suggestion

Be Still For The Presence Of The
Lord



It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.
Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves
be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1 NIV



Church Together

Thought

When a bomb starts ticking, everyone knows that an explosion is imminent. Jacob's favouritism, Joseph's bragging and his brothers' growing resentment combined to create a veritable timebomb – a deadly timebomb waiting to explode, with no one trying to defuse the tensions that had built up over the years. Sibling rivalry is not necessarily wrong. It's natural. Parents sigh, yet they accept the fact that their children won't always get along. But while harmless squabbles are easy to deal with, life – long feuds are a different situation altogether. 'Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry' from **Ephesians 4 v. 26** is good advice, especially for couples and families.

When people live together in close proximity, it's inevitable that they will get on each other's nerves. It's imperative that anyone who is part of a community doesn't hold grudges, that they forgive fast and freely, and refuse to let unhealthy anger and resentment take root. As **Hebrews 12 v. 15** reminds us: 'See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.' Otherwise, what begins with something trivial may escalate into something much bigger.

What started out with a fancy coat, a few tales carried home to dad and some youthful bragging, ended up in a tangled web of lies, deception, anger, hatred, kidnapping,

attempted murder, slavery, imprisonment and heartbreak for Jacob and his family.

When Jacob's sons left home that morning, there might have been some angry rumblings about Joseph, but could they ever have contemplated murder? Yet, the mere sight of Joseph striding confidently towards them, wearing that long - sleeved robe, was the final straw. The anger they had nursed in their hearts for so long spiralled rapidly into a murder plot. Blinded by rage, the brothers were even able to sit down and enjoy a meal, while their brother lay groaning in a pit. In their hearts, they had already committed murder.

As Jesus said in **Matthew 5 v. 21, 22**: 'You have heard that it was said "Do not murder,"... But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgement'. 'O, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practise to deceive!' wrote Sir Walter Scott. One sin, even the smallest, supposedly most harmless one, is all it takes to set our feet upon the downward trail.

Joseph's brothers started with 'small' sins. They were angry with Joseph, they were jealous - and they did nothing to rid themselves of their anger and jealousy. In a matter of minutes, they had considered murder and had sold their brother into slavery. To cover up the kidnapping, they became entangled in a web of deception and heartbreak that lasted years.

Joseph's premonitions were not simply offensive, but fearful, wielding considerable power over their hearers. How would the family deal with the awful truth? It could have been fantasy, but it felt ominous. How do we handle 'dark knowledge' in our own lives? For example, the news of terminal illness; the fear of marital breakdown;

handling our sexuality. The passage gives several responses to this, and it helps us to put things into the right perspective:

BE PARALYSED BY IT (Genesis 37 v. 11)

Disturbed, Jacob broods, but does nothing. He abdicates responsibility, perhaps through fear or inability to handle his love for Joseph. Paralysed by thoughts and emotions, his failure to lead gives opportunity for evil. Surely, this is not an example to follow.

BE TWISTED BY IT (Genesis 37 v. 11)

The brothers' jealousy is even stronger than their hatred – the Hebrew word implies violent action. When confidential knowledge is hard to handle, we sometimes harm those who burdened us with it – often through slander or gossip. This is yet another example not to follow.

KILL IT (Genesis 37 v. 20)

The most extreme form of denial is to kill it. The Hebrew word for 'dreamer' means one empowered with prophetic insight: if they get rid of Joseph, they need not fear his dream anymore. Similarly, in crimes of passion, people would rather kill than allow their idol to be shared.

Obviously, this is definitely not an example to follow, but we must take into account Jesus' warning that is found in **Matthew 5 v. 21 – 26**, which says: "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' 22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. 23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or

sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. 25 “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. 26 Truly I tell you; you will not get out until you have paid the last penny’. We kill by our thoughts.

HIDE IT (Genesis 37 v. 22, 26, 31)

The brothers’ thought Joseph was so far away he would never trouble them again. Similarly, we block out things too hard to face, such as unresolved relationship matters; difficult-to-pay-back loans; scary memories.

FACE IT (Genesis 37 v. 36)

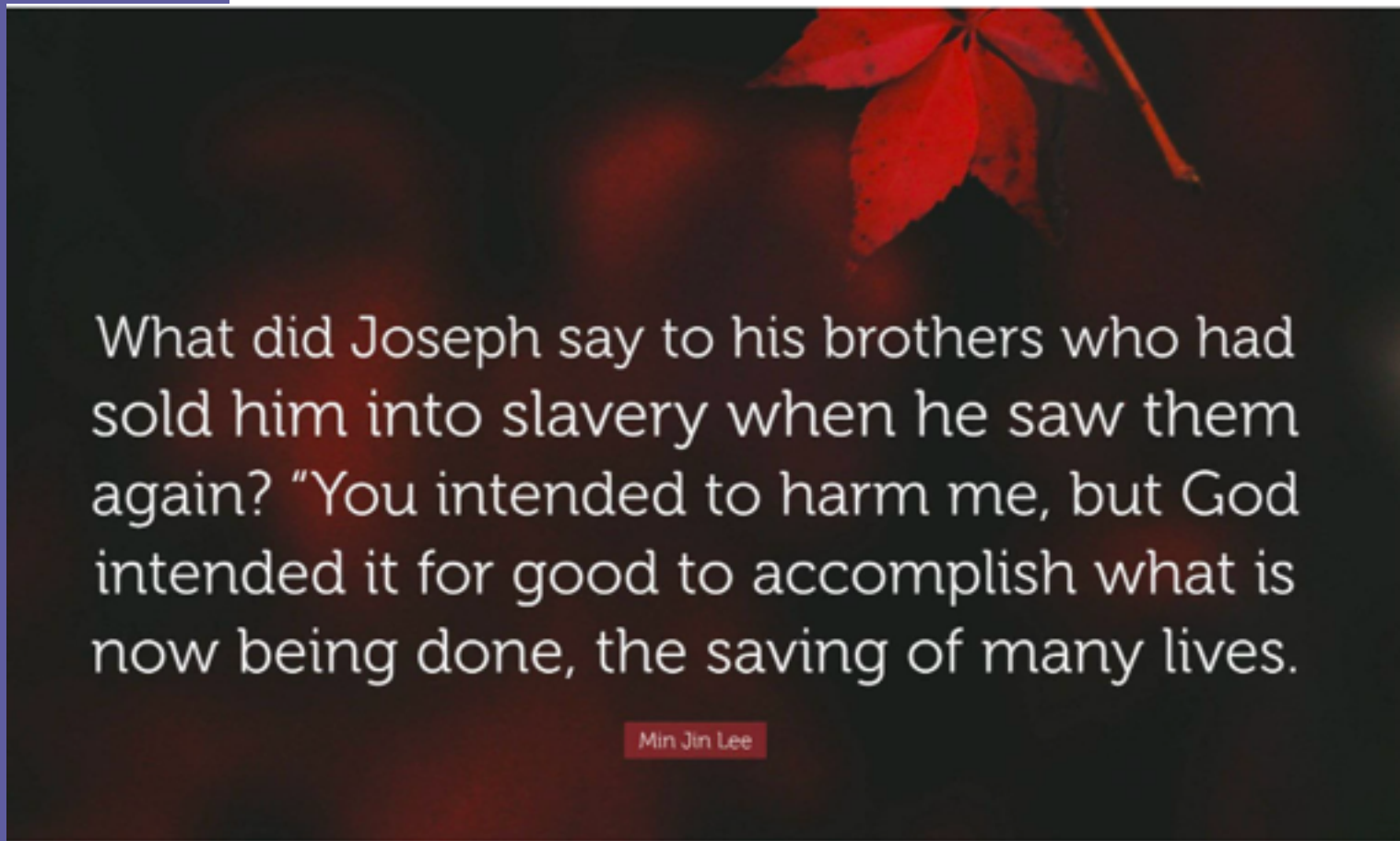
Only this final verse hints that God is not thwarted by the situation. He knows and holds the future. There is room for faith, trust, humility, openness, love, and acceptance.

What, then, is the lesson for you and me? The answer is simple: Don’t nurse anger, bitterness, or jealousy in your heart. All too quickly, angry feelings turn into angry attitudes, which spiral into angry actions. We need to and must, claim the power of the Holy Spirit to cleanse ourselves of sinful feelings and attitudes in our everyday life. Don’t hesitate to seek professional help if necessary. It could save you, and others, years of heartache.

Song Suggestion

What A Friend We Have In Jesus





What did Joseph say to his brothers who had sold him into slavery when he saw them again? "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

Min Jin Lee

Prayers Of Intercession

Let us pray this week and as we do so, let's Pause & Pray:

Heavenly Father, we come before you today, and we thank you for teaching us how to pray simply and sincerely. We thank you today for hearing us when we cry out to you in moments of despair and anguish, and we also thank you for the ability to praise you and glorify your Holy name.

Pause & Pray

We praise you and thank you for good health and daily food, for the shelter and care of our homes, for the love and loyalty of our family and friends. Thank you for the teaching and example of Jesus, who is both our Lord and Saviour. We give thanks for forgiveness and salvation, for your presence with us always and for the service into which you has called us. Help us today, we pray, to thank you not only with our lips, in praise and prayer, but also in lives full of hope and love; for you and for each other.

Pause & Pray

Loving Lord, we would thank you for all the bright things of life; for the wonders of creation that is around us and the joy that that brings to us. Help us to see the wonderful things of life and the beauty of your creation, and to remember them and to count our blessings.

Pause & Pray

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who govern over us. We pray for our Prime Minister who leads this country and

his elected cabinet. We lift before you our Royal Family, and all the complexity of their lives at this present time. We pray for those countries around the world that are at war. We also pray for those countries that are hostile to other countries at this present moment.

Pause & Pray

Loving Lord Jesus, we pray for our families and friends. We thank you that you know our every situation. Help us today we pray to face the many different situations we face with dignity and love, and give us peace in our hearts and minds.

Pause & Pray

We continue to pray for those who are unwell, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound and those in care homes. We pray for all those who care for their needs, both professionally and within the family. So, as we share a moment of silence together today, we bring before you those known only to ourselves and name them before you, Lord Jesus.

Pause & Pray

And finally, Lord we pray for ourselves. Help us Lord to follow your example in all that we do and say as we journey with you. We place ourselves, this Church and all your people into your loving care.

Pause & Pray

Amen

A person is sitting on the edge of a large, dark rock formation, silhouetted against a bright sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The sky transitions from a pale yellow near the horizon to a soft pink and purple at the top. On the left side of the image, there is a vertical purple bar. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES
TO SIN. FOR WHEN WE DIED
WITH CHRIST

*we were set free
from the power
of sin*

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power
And the glory, forever and ever.

Amen

Song Suggestion

Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning



Blessing

We have gathered here today, Lord God as your people to offer you our sacrifice of prayer and worship.

May the love of Jesus Christ bring us wholeness, the grace of God the Father grant us peace, the breath of Holy Spirit instil within us passion and the unity between them give us strength for this and every day.

Amen