

Kings Norton Baptist Church

Sunday 4th August 2024 10 am

Joseph saves his brothers

Opening Scripture.

Hymn MP 33 And can it be

Scripture Psalm 33 (page 560)

Prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Children's talk The key to your heart

Chorus MP 183 God holds the key

Notices Labour party, MP, Sunday teas, two to go, Camp x3, Thursday gathering for prayer (Quinton E).
Google translate.

Helena speaking on experience with BCM Internship

Prayer and Lord's prayer

Reading Genesis 37:1-36 (page 41) 1-11, 12-30, 31-36

Hymn MP 1024 All my days (beautiful Saviour) (3:52)

Message Joseph saves his brothers
(you intended to harm, God intended it for good)

Hymn MP 645 the God of Abraham Praise (3:24)

Closing prayer

the God of Abraham Praise – from the Jewish Synagogue

Thomas Olivers, one of Whitefield's converts, had led a very profligate life as a shoemaker until his conversion took place, being afterwards accepted by Mr. Wesley as a preacher of the Gospel at the age of twenty-eight. Nearly twenty years later Olivers was on a visit to another Methodist lay preacher, John Bakewell, of Westminster, and while a guest at his house visited the Jewish Synagogue, where he heard a beautiful melody sung by a Rabbi, Signor Leoni. Olivers was so struck by the music that he immediately decided to write a Christian hymn which would fit the same melody, and enable it to be sung by Methodists; so under Mr. Bakewell's hospitable roof the magnificent hymn was composed.

The hymn became so immensely popular that in its second year no less than eight editions were needed.

Prayer

■ Lex Brown hadn't been going to his new school for long, but there was at least one thing just about anyone could tell you about him: He loved his family. This can be seen in the way the 15-year-old's life was taken far too soon. While playing around in the Wabash River, his 9-year-old brother got swept away in the current. Without hesitating, the teen dived after him. Although Lex was successful in pushing his little brother toward safety, he quickly got caught up in the current himself. Sadly, this is how Lex drowned. Ever since that day, family and friends have taken the time to celebrate this young hero. All this happened in Indiana, USA, barely three weeks ago.

The title of the sermon is "*Joseph saves his brothers*" the strap line is what Joseph said to his brothers "**you intended to harm me, but God intended it for good**" Here we see 'the sinfulness of man - and the goodness of God' x2.

As we look today at the OT let us consider Joseph. He is important because his life takes up 14 of the 50 chapters in Genesis, from his birth in chapter 30 and then from chapter 36 to the end chapter 50. So Joseph and the events of his life are important and we must consider them.

God has said Abraham's seed would be a blessing to the world. Was it to be Isaac? It wasn't, how about his son Jacob? It wasn't. How about one of Jacob's many sons? Could it be Joseph? No it wasn't. But look at Joseph or His father Jacob, or his father Isaac, the patriarchs, and you see the likeness of the promised true seed, the Lord Jesus Christ. Those in the royal line were but precursors of the true Son to come. Let us all now see that this likeness of Jesus is very evident in the life of Joseph.

We read Genesis Ch. 37. It would take too long to read through his life to Ch.50 so let me first summarise and then we can walk through some of the key points.

Joseph is sold by his brothers as a slave, he ends up in Egypt, he becomes the ruler of all Egypt and through his storing up of food he saves his brothers who come to him. That in a nutshell is what happened.

Jacob was the father of twelve sons who would become the twelve tribes of Israel. But not until the end did his wife Rachel whom he loved bear him a child. Her first child was Joseph. She then bore him Benjamin.

⇒ ...and Joseph was the father's favourite.

v3 Jacob, or Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; His love for him was obvious for he made a richly ornamented robe for him. The father looked upon him as his uniquely special son.

So the commendation of Jesus as he came up from the waters of baptism was a voice from heaven which said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Mt 3:17

Jesus was that uniquely special son. Although Jesus is the creator God he came into his world, took on flesh, was born of a woman as we all are – and as descended from Adam he is therefore our brother in Adam. As such he is a fitting Saviour of the human race. **Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family.** Heb 2:11. **he too shared in our humanity so that by his death - he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil** Heb 2:14. Now the devil can no longer point his accusing finger at me and say "guilty, guilty", for the blood of Christ has removed the guilty stain of my sin. I am now, having received the righteousness of Christ, declared innocent before God. That is what Christ our brother, our substitute came to do on the cross.

The father sent the Son into this world on a rescue mission to seek and to save the lost. Jesus left his father's side and came to us, to you and I *to empty himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race* as we sung earlier in Charles Wesley's hymn 'And can it be'.

So too Joseph left his father who said to him "**your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them.**"

To which Joseph replied "**Very well,**" As Jesus said '**Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.**'" Heb 10:7 & 10:9 (Psalm 40:6-8 see Septuagint)

14 So Jacob the father said to him, "**Go and see if all is well with your brothers and ... and bring word back to me.**" Ge 37:12-14

What did Joseph find when he found his brothers, he found them scheming to kill him.

We read 4 **When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.** Ge 37:4

Hatred lurks deep in the human heart. Since the fall in the Garden of Eden, man's corrupted heart sets man against man, brother against brother, sister against sister. By God's grace we are not as bad as we could - and can be. By God's grace we are not at each other's throats but non the less the heart is naturally hostile to God - and hates to have God reign over him. Is it not true that everywhere we see man's natural hatred of his fellow man?

What did Jesus find when he came into this world? **He came to his own but they received him not.** The most holy man who ever walked this earth was **hated** they as He said: '**They hated me without reason.**' Joh 15:25, Ps 35:19; 69:4). **even his own brothers** we are told **did not believe in him.** John 7:5

The more Jesus revealed the truth of God, the more they could see his deity, the more many rejected Him. "**You are a king, then!**" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "**You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.**" Joh 18:37

The truth of God was revealed to Jacob in dreams and pointed to his lordship 5 **Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers – when the truth of God was revealed to them - they hated him all the more.** Ge 37:5

Sold as a slave

Are things well with your brothers Joseph? No they are not. All is not well. his brothers scheme against Him, they plot to kill him and in the end sell him as a slave to some Ishmaelite traders coming past. They certainly would not be bowing down to him. At least not yet. That day will come.

Sold as a slave - for the price of a slave. Twenty pieces of silver then - and thirty for Jesus all those years later.

Joseph is taken to Egypt, the land of slavery. He is as good as dead, and his father thinks of him as dead and grieves deeply for him.

So Jesus became a servant or slave, it's the same word, He entered this dark world of slavery and death - and took death to himself.

Was Jesus sufficient to the task. He was because he was tempted as Adam and Eve were, He was tempted in the same way we are – and yet gave no ground. So the next thing we read is of Joseph, now sold to Potiphar to be a servant in his household and there to be sorely tested.

Potiphar's wife tries to draw him, a temptation of the flesh - like turning those stones into bread as with Jesus' temptation. - But Joseph stands firm. **he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No-one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"** Ge 39:6-9

Now the punishment. Having stood the temptation the darkness of the prison cell awaited him. There are two others with him as Christ was between two criminals. One who was condemned - and one who was saved.

Pharaoh's cupbearer and his baker, one is condemned - and the other saved. Their fortunes Joseph accurately predicts. To the baker we are told **"Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and hang you on a tree.."** Ge 40:19 The bread of the body broken as with Jesus, but the blood prevailed as the Cupbearer was restored.

So Joseph was restored when he heard and interpreted Pharaoh's dreams in which were made known the judgment of God to come. Joseph alone knew, as Jesus alone knows the unfolding plan of God, the One worthy to open the scroll of God's eternal purposes.

In the judgment of God there will be a widespread famine. The result will be death. The only remedy is in the actions of Joseph. Do what he says and you will live. **for without your word no-one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt** Ge 41:44. As Jesus said **without me you can do nothing.**

"Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Yes so too Jesus started his ministry at 30, and went out and preached throughout the land the gospel of salvation. And so Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and travelled throughout Egypt." Ge 41:46

You know the story of how Joseph built up the storehouses filled with grain so that all who came to him were saved from death.

So Joseph's brothers are sent to find food in Egypt by their father Jacob.

We are like those brothers, we are commanded to come to the Son, our perfect brother and Saviour the Lord Jesus that we be saved from death.

They were driven by the famine, oh how the trials and miseries of this world drives us to the One who can save us.

Psalms 107 says **"some were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."** Ps 107:5-9

Are you here because you have a spiritual hunger?, the best offerings of this world have left you empty, famished and dry. Then come to the Saviour, come to the One place where there is food, come to the bread of Life. Are you hungry? Is your soul starved in this world and hungry for the God who made you? If that is you then obey the command, respond to the invitation: **"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost."** Isa 55:1

Such was the invitation – but the invitation still stands, you can respond today, it is for you now. It is free. Drink freely of the fount of living water. You cannot buy this, you can never buy this. Not like the brothers they came with money to pay - but found the silver was returned, it was there in the sacks. The grain, the food, is free.

⇒ **The grace of God is always free, this is something you cannot pay for.**

How foolish not to come to the Lord, how foolish to choose to starve when there is food with Christ in abundance, This is the Gospel of God's grace, salvation rich and free.

"You have saved our lives," said those who came to Joseph for food **"May we find favour in the eyes of our lord;** and he amply supplied them. They now declared allegiance to a new master Ge 47:25

Remember they were driven by the famine. – yet the father sent them.

Has the father sent you to the Son? Has he enabled you to come to Him? He must send you, God the father must enable you. Has that happened?

⇒ **Those who haven't remain the same. But those who know the Son are never the same again.**

In fact Joseph beckoned them saying: **“God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.”** Ge 45:9 Jesus said and still says **“come to me”** x2

The brothers meet Joseph, they meet the one once imprisoned, the one who suffered. The slave who is now King Joseph. He is the one who promises deliverance if they obey His words – Do that and you will be saved.

“On the third day, Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live” Ge 42:18

Chapters 43 and 44 are full of tension, why? Because it is here we see how the brothers sin is exposed and dealt with.

We are honest men they had said 42:31. **we are honest men.** how many say that, do you, do you not know yourself? Are you still believing you are a good person? Don't compare yourself with that other person, compare yourself with the model of perfection, the life Jesus Christ who loved God with all His heart and all his soul and mind and strength. He who loved his neighbour, and loved his enemies. Have you done that? And done so all of the time? No of course not. Then you are a sinner needing saving.

If you still think you are a good person then you will not find salvation. One day the truth of who you are will be terrible laid bare and you will scream. Better to scream or cry now and confess your sin while you can. This is what the cross is all about. The punishment, the darkness, the banishment from the presence of God that Jesus took to bear away sin for the repentant sinner. There is no way round this. It is only through Christ crucified.

■ **M. L. Jones wrote a book “The plight of Man and the power of God”**

We are in all stuck in our miserable plight and yet God has the power - and the will - to rescue us from it. Has that happened to you? Can you come up here as many have and say what he has powerfully done in your life.

Hear the words of psalm 32 the psalm before the one we had earlier. **Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him.**

Is that you? are you sure? If you have no confidence or assurance of sins forgiven then do not remain silent, hear David **“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me”** do you feel God's heavy hand on you? Is there a darkness over your heart and life?, a confusion and fear? David said **my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. We don't see that heat here but go to a really hot country and you feel weighed down by the heat, it leaves you exhausted and unable to move. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”—and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.”** Ps 32:1-6

Those brothers needed their sin needs to be exposed – and dealt with. The day came when finally and suddenly their eyes are opened and they recognised Joseph - when Joseph made himself known to his brothers 45:1

Have your eyes been opened to see who Jesus is? Has Christ made himself known to you? Yes? when that happens there are indeed tears, tears of Joy. As there has been a time of weeping for sin so now there are tears of Joy when our Saviour brother is revealed to me.

The brothers are forgiven, their past sins are taken away. Joseph says to them **do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ... God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.”** Ge 45:5,7

What a deliverance. Joseph looks after them and they live in safety and security in the land of Egypt.

⇒ **Joseph saved his brothers - as Jesus came to save his brothers**

At the end of the book turn to Gen 50:19, just prior to Joseph's death he **said to them, “Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.”** And he reassured them and **spoke kindly to them.”** Ge 50:19-21

Summary

How unable Joseph's brothers were to change their hearts. How unable they were to change their circumstances. The famine came and they were in distress. My friends the Lord will bring a host of things to bring you to the

end of yourself. You cannot change this or that, you can effect not change either within or without. My immovable sin separates me from God and he does not hear.

How then can anyone be saved asked the disciples of Jesus. **Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."** Mr 10:27

What a good God who is so able to overcome the hardness of my heart.. How the Lord is able to change me from stubbornness and resisting God's good rule - to now have His love poured into my heart. How wonderful that God sent the One to be our brother and Saviour, both to save and to keep.

Joseph like Jesus, was rejected and banished. Joseph like Jesus disappeared - and came back risen again as king, as Ruler and Lord of all.

⇒ **How gracious, how loving, how good is the Lord our God.**

If he gave his all for me, how can I now not give all things for Him.

END

約瑟拯救他的兄弟

開經經。

聖歌 MP 33 可以嗎

經文 詩篇 33 (第 560 頁)

讚美和感恩的禱告。

兒童談話 開啟你心靈的鑰匙

合唱 MP 183 上帝掌握鑰匙

通知工黨、國會議員、週日茶會、兩人去、露營 x3、週四聚會祈禱 (Quinton E)。谷歌翻譯。

Helena 講述 BCM 實習經歷

禱告與主禱文

讀創世記 37:1-36 (第 41 頁) 1-11, 12-30, 31-36

聖詩 MP 1024 我一生的日子 (美麗的救主) (3:52)

訊息 約瑟拯救他的兄弟

(你的意圖是傷害，上帝的意圖是好的)

聖詩 MP 645 讚美亞伯拉罕的神 (3:24)

結束祈禱

亞伯拉罕的上帝讚美 – 來自猶太教堂

托馬斯·奧利弗 (Thomas

Olivers) 是懷特菲爾德的皈依者之一，他作為鞋匠過著非常揮霍的生活，直到他皈依基督教，後來在二十八歲時被韋斯利先生接受為福音傳教士。近二十年後，奧利弗拜訪了另一位衛理公會平信徒傳教士約翰·貝克韋爾 (John

Bakewell)，他是威斯敏斯特的一位客人，他家中的一位客人參觀了猶太教堂，在那裡他聽到了拉比萊奧尼先生所唱的優美旋律。奧利弗被這首音樂深深打動，他立刻決定寫一首適合同樣旋律的基督教讚美詩，並讓衛理公會教徒演唱它；就這樣，在貝克韋爾先生熱情好客的屋簷下，這首壯麗的讚美詩誕生了。

這首讚美詩非常受歡迎，以至於在第二年就需要至少八個版本。

禱告

萊克斯布朗去新學校的時間不長，但至少有一件事情任何人都可以告訴你關於他的事：他愛他的家人。從這個 15 歲的年輕人的生命被過早奪走就可以看出這一點。他 9 歲的弟弟在瓦巴什河 (Wabash River)

玩耍時被水流沖走了。少年毫不猶豫地追了上去。儘管萊克斯成功地將他的弟弟推向安全地帶，但他自己很快也陷入了困境。不幸的是，萊克斯就是這樣溺水身亡的。從那天起，家人和朋友就花時間慶祝這位年輕的英雄。這一切都發生在美國印第安納州，距今不到三週。

講道的標題是“約瑟拯救他的兄弟”，主線是約瑟對他的兄弟們說的“你們想要傷害我，但上帝的本意是好的”，在這裡我們看到“人的罪孽——以及上帝的良善” 'x2。

當我們今天看舊約時，讓我們想想約瑟。他很重要，因為他的生平佔據了創世記50章中的14章，從第30章他的出生，然後從第36章到最後的第50章。事件很重要，我們必須考慮它們。

神說過亞伯拉罕的後裔將成為世界的祝福。是艾薩克嗎？不是，他的兒子雅各怎麼樣？事實並非如此。雅各的眾多兒子之一怎麼樣？難道是約瑟夫？不，不是。但是看看約瑟或他的父親雅各，或他的父親以撒，這些族長，你就會看到應許的真正後裔，主耶穌基督的肖像。那些王室成員只是未來真正兒子的先驅。現在讓我們大家來看看，耶穌的這種相似性在約瑟的一生中非常明顯。

我們讀創世記第1章。37. 把他的一生讀到第50

章需要太長的時間，所以讓我先總結一下，然後我們可以討論一些關鍵點。

約瑟被他的兄弟們賣為奴隸，他最終來到了埃及，他成為了整個埃及的統治者，透過他儲存的食物，他拯救了來到他身邊的兄弟們。簡而言之，這就是發生的事情。

雅各是十二個兒子的父親，這些兒子後來成為以色列的十二個支派。但直到最後，他深愛的妻子雷切爾才為他生下了孩子。她的第一個孩子是約瑟夫。然後她為他生了班傑明。

□約瑟是父親的最愛。

v3

雅各或以色列愛約瑟勝過其他愛他的兒子，因為約瑟是在約瑟年老時生的。他對他的愛顯而易見，他為他做了一件裝飾華麗的長袍。父親把他視為自己獨一無二的兒子。

因此，當耶穌從洗禮水中上來時，有天上來的聲音對他說：「這是我的兒子，我所愛的，我所喜悅的。」

太 3:17

耶穌是那個獨一無二的兒子。儘管耶穌是創造者上帝，但他來到了他的世界，道成肉身，與我們一樣由女人所生——

作為亞當的後裔，因此他是我們在亞當裡的兄弟。因此，他是人類合適的救世主。使人成聖的那一位和被成聖的人都是同一家族的。來

2:11。祂也分享了我們的人性，好讓透過祂的死－他可以消滅那掌死權的－即魔鬼（來2:14）。現在魔鬼不能再用它控訴的手指指著我說“有罪，有罪”，因為基督的寶血已經除去了我罪孽的污點。現在，我接受了基督的義，在上帝面前宣告無罪。這就是我們的兄弟基督，我們的替身，在十字架上要做的事。父親派兒子來到這個世界執行救援任務，尋找並拯救失喪的人。耶穌離開了他父親的身邊，來到我們身邊，來到你我身邊，除了愛之外，他倒空了自己的一切，並為亞當無助的種族流血，正如我們早些時候在查爾斯·衛斯理的讚美詩《能這樣嗎》中所唱的那樣。

約瑟也離開了他的父親，父親對他說：“你的哥哥們正在示劍附近放羊。來吧，我要送你到他們那裡去。”

約瑟回答說：「很好。」正如耶穌所說：「上帝啊，我在這裡——經卷上已經記載了——我來了，為要遵行你的旨意。」（希伯來書10:7 & 10:9）（詩篇40）:6-8 參閱《七十士譯本》）

14 父親雅各對他說：“你去看看你哥哥們平安無事.....然後回來告訴我。”創 37:12-14

當約瑟找到他的兄弟時，他發現了什麼，他發現他們密謀要殺他。

我們讀到 4 當他的兄弟們看見父親愛他勝過愛他們任何人時，他們就恨他，對他說不出一句好話。創 37:4

仇恨潛伏在人心深處。自從伊甸園墮落以來，人類敗壞的心就使人與人之間、兄弟與兄弟之間、姊妹與姊妹之間。靠著上帝的恩典，我們並沒有像我們可能的那樣糟糕——而且也可以變得如此糟糕。

靠著上帝的恩典，我們不再互相爭鬥，但我們的心卻自然而然地對上帝懷有敵意——並且討厭上帝來統治他。我們不是到處都能看到人類對同胞的本能仇恨嗎？

當耶穌來到這個世界時，他發現了什麼？他自己來了，但他們沒有接待他。世上最聖潔的人都被他們所恨，正如他所說：「他們無緣無故地恨我。」約 15:25，詩 35:19；69:4）。據我們所知，就連他自己的兄弟也不相信他。約翰福音 7:5 耶穌越揭示神的真理，他們越能看見祂的神性，就越多的人拒絕祂。

“那你就是國王了！”彼拉多說。耶穌回答說：“你說我是王是對的。事實上，我為此而生，也為此來到世上，為真理作見證。每個站在真理一邊的人都聽我的。”約 18:37

上帝的真理在夢中向雅各顯現，並指向祂的主權。他了。創 37:5

被賣為奴隸

你的兄弟約瑟過得還好嗎？不，他們不是。一切都不好。他的兄弟們密謀反對他，他們密謀殺死他，最後把他賣給一些經過的以實瑪利商人當奴隸。他們當然不會向他下跪。至少現在還沒有。那一天將會到來。

作為奴隸出售——以奴隸的價格。當時是二十塊銀子——多年以後，三十塊銀子是給耶穌的。

約瑟被帶到埃及，奴隸之地。他已經死了，他的父親也想他已經死了，為他深感悲痛。

所以耶穌成為了僕人或奴隸，這是同一個詞，他進入了這個奴役和死亡的黑暗世界——並接受了死亡。

耶穌足以完成這項任務嗎？他之所以如此，是因為他像亞當和夏娃一樣受過試探，也像我們一樣受過試探——但他沒有屈服。因此，我們讀到的下一件事是關於約瑟的，他現在被賣給波提乏，成為他家裡的僕人，並在那裡受到嚴峻的考驗。

波提乏的妻子試圖吸引他，這是肉體的誘惑——就像耶穌的誘惑一樣，將那些石頭變成麵包。——但約瑟立場堅定。他拒絕了。

「由我負責，」他告訴她，「我的主人不關心房子裡的任何事；他擁有的一切都交給我照顧。這房子裡沒有人比我更偉大。我的主人已經扣留了除了你，我什麼都沒有，因為你是他的妻子。我怎能做這樣惡的事，得罪神呢？」

現在懲罰。經受住誘惑後，黑暗的牢房等待著他。還有另外兩個人和他在一起，就像基督夾在兩個罪犯中間。一位被定罪的人，一位得救的人。

法老的酒政和他的膳長，一個被定罪，另一個得救。約瑟夫準確地預測了他們的命運。我們對麵包師傅說：「三天之內，法老王要砍下你的頭，把你掛在木頭上。」【創40:19】身體的餅像耶穌一樣擘開，但當酒政恢復時，血卻佔了上風。

當約斯伯聽到並解釋了法老的夢時，他就恢復了過來，法老的夢表明了上帝即將到來的審判。只有約瑟知道，正如只有耶穌知道神正在展開的計劃一樣，祂是配展開神永恆旨意之書卷的那一位。

在神的審判中，將會出現大規模的飢荒。結果將是死亡。唯一的補救辦法就是約瑟的行動。照他說的去，你就會活下去。因為若沒有你的吩咐，埃及全地無人敢舉手 創 41:44。正如耶穌所說，沒有我，你什麼都做不了。

「約瑟侍奉埃及王法老時年三十歲。是的，耶穌30歲就開始傳道，出去向全國傳救恩的福音。於是約瑟離開法老面前，走遍了埃及。創 41:46

你們都知道約瑟如何建造裝滿穀物的倉庫，讓所有到他這裡來的人都免於死亡的故事。

因此，約瑟的兄弟被他們的父親雅各派往埃及尋找食物。

我們就像那些弟兄一樣，我們被吩咐要來到聖子、我們完美的弟兄和救主耶穌面前，使我們從死亡中得救。

他們被飢荒所驅趕，哦，這個世界的考驗和苦難如何驅使我們去找能夠拯救我們的那一位。

詩篇 107

篇說：「有些人又飢又渴，生命漸漸衰弱。於是他們在苦難中哀求耶和華，他就從他們的禍患中搭救他們。他們要感謝耶和華對人的慈愛和奇妙的作為，使口渴的人飽足，飢餓的人飽足。詩 107:5-9

你來這裡是因為你有精神上的飢餓嗎？然後來到救主面前，來到那有食物的地方，來到生命的糧面前。你餓了嗎？你的靈魂在這個世界上是否感到飢餓並渴望創造你的上帝？如果是這樣，那麼你就聽從命令，回應邀請：“來吧，所有口渴的人到水邊來；快來吧！”沒錢的你們也來買來吃吧！來吧，買酒買牛奶，不花錢，不花錢。賽 55:1

這就是邀請——

但邀請仍然有效，你今天就可以回應，現在是給你的。這是免費的。暢飲活水的泉源。你買不到這個，你永遠買不到這個。不像兄弟倆，他們帶著錢來付錢——

卻發現銀子被退回來，它就在麻袋裡。穀物、食物都是免費的。

- 神的恩典永遠是白白的，這是你無法付出代價的。

不來到主面前是多麼愚蠢，當基督有豐盛的食物時卻選擇挨餓是多麼愚蠢，這是神恩典的福音，是豐富而白白的救恩。

那些來約瑟索要食物的人說：「你救了我們的命。願我們在我們主眼前蒙恩，他就給他們充足的供應。他們現在向新主人效忠了 創 47:25

請記住，他們是被飢荒驅趕的。一然而父親還是派他們來的。

父親派你去見兒子了嗎？他讓你能夠來到他面前嗎？他必須差遣你，天父必須幫助你。有這樣的事發生嗎？

- 那些沒有保持不變的人。但那些認識聖子的人就不再一樣了。

事實上，約瑟向他們招手說：「上帝已立我為全埃及的主。下來到我這裡來；別耽誤了。創 45:9

耶穌說，現在仍然說「到我這裡來」x2

兄弟們見到了約瑟，他們見到了曾經被監禁的人，那個受苦的人。奴隸現在是約瑟夫國王。他承諾，如果他們聽從他的話，他們就會得到拯救——這樣做，你就會得救。

「第三天，約瑟對他們說：『你們這樣行就可以存活。』創 42:18

第43、44章充滿張力，為什麼？因為在這裡我們看見弟兄們的罪是如何被揭露、如何處理的。

他們說過我們是誠實的人

42:31。我們是誠實的人。有多少人這麼說，你，你不認識自己嗎？你還相信自己是個好人嗎？不要將自己與其他人比較，而要將自己與完美的典範，即全心、全性、全意和力量愛上帝的耶穌基督進行比較。他愛他的鄰居，也愛他的敵人。你做到了嗎？並且一直這樣做？不，當然不是。那麼你就是一個需要拯救的罪人。

如果你仍然認為自己是個好人，那麼你就找不到救贖。有一天，你是誰的真相將被可怕地揭露出來，你會尖叫。最好現在就尖叫或哭泣，並儘可能地承認你的罪。這就是十字架的意義。耶穌為悔改的罪人除去罪孽而採取的懲罰、黑暗、從神面前的驅逐。這是沒有辦法解決的。唯有藉著被釘十字架的基督。

M.L.瓊斯寫了一本書《人的困境與上帝的力量》

我們所有人都陷入了悲慘的困境，但上帝有能力 and 意願將我們從困境中拯救出來。你有遇過這種情況嗎？你能像許多人一樣站到這裡來，說說他在你的生活中做了什麼有力的事情嗎？

聽聽詩篇 32

篇的話，這是我們之前讀過的詩篇之前的詩篇。過犯得赦免、罪孽被遮蓋的人是有福的。耶和華不算罪的，這人有福了。

那是你嗎？你確定嗎？如果你對罪得赦免沒有信心或確信，那就不要保持沉默，聽大衛說：「我閉口不言的時候，因終日唉哼，我的骨頭枯乾。你的手日日夜夜地沉重地壓在我身上」，你感受到神那沉重的手在你身上嗎？你的內心和生活是否有黑暗、困惑和恐懼？大衛說我的體力就像在炎熱的夏天一樣被削弱了。我們在這裡看不到那麼熱，但是去一個非常熱的國家，你會感到被熱壓得喘不過氣來，它會讓你筋疲力盡，無法動彈。於是我向你承認了我的罪，並沒有掩蓋我的罪孽。我說：「我要向耶和華承認我的過犯」－你就赦免了我的罪。所以，凡敬虔的人，趁你可找到的時候，向你禱告；當大水上漲時，他們肯定無法到達他。詩篇 32:1-6

這些弟兄的罪需要被揭露並被處理。有一天，他們的眼睛終於突然睜開，他們認出了約瑟——約瑟向他的兄弟們表明了自己的身份 45:1

你的眼睛有沒有被打開看清耶穌是誰？基督向你顯現了嗎？是的？當這種情況發生時，確實會流淚，喜悅的眼淚。正如曾經為罪哭泣的時候一樣，現在當我們的救主兄弟向我顯現時，我也流下了喜樂的淚水。

弟兄們都被赦免了，他們過去的罪孽都被除去了。約瑟對他們說，不要因為把我賣到這裡而憂愁，也不要生自己的氣，因為神差我在你們前面來，是為了拯救生命。

.....上帝派我在你們之前為你們在地球上保留餘民，並透過偉大的拯救來拯救你們的生命。創 45:5,7

這是多麼大的解脫。約瑟照顧他們，他們在埃及土地上過著安全的生活。

□ 約瑟拯救了他的兄弟 - 正如耶穌來拯救他的兄弟一樣

在書的結尾，請翻到創

50:19，就在約瑟去世之前，他對他們說：“不要害怕。我能代替上帝嗎？你們本意是要害我，但上帝的本意是好的。”完成現在正在做的事情，拯救許多人的生命，所以，不要害怕，我會養活你和你的孩子。他讓他們放心，並對他們說友善的話。創 50:19-21

概括

約瑟的哥哥們是多麼無力改變他們的心。他們是多麼無力改變自己的處境。飢荒來了，他們陷入困境。我的朋友們，主會帶來很多事情來帶你們走向終點。你不能改變這個或那個，你可以不改變內在或外在。我不可動搖的罪使我與神隔絕，而他卻聽不到。

耶穌的門徒問，那麼人怎樣才能得救呢？耶穌看著他們說：“在人這是不能的，在神卻不然，在神凡事都能。”先生 10:27

多麼良善的神，竟然能克服我內心的剛硬。

神差遣那一位成為我們的弟兄和救主，既要拯救又要保守，這是多麼奇妙啊。

約瑟夫像耶穌一樣，被拒絕並被驅逐。約瑟像耶穌一樣消失了，但又復活了，成為國王、統治者和萬有之主。

□ 主我們的神是多麼仁慈、多麼慈愛、多麼良善。

如果祂為我付出一切，我現在怎能不為祂付出一切。

結尾