

Café Church - God's Plan**24th Sept 2017**

In the story of Joseph it's amazing how God's plan unfolds

Joseph is His Dad's favourite Son (and of course we should never have favourites) show

He's a bit of a show off but harmless

[Powerpoint 1-Joseph and His Coat]

He has a lovely colourful coat and he has these great dreams about being in charge of his brothers

But as we look at Joseph's story

We say plenty of ups and downs

Thrown down a dry well - and left for dead

Then sold as a slave

Then finding favour with Pharaohs' captain Potiphar

And becoming head of Potiphar's house

Only to be falsely accused by Potiphar's wife - and we all hate that don't we - being accused of something we didn't do

Then he's thrown in jail

But even in jail people like him

And he is able to work out a couple of guys dreams in jail

Only to be forgotten about for a couple of years

Then he gets a break and Pharaoh needs someone to work out his dream

And Joseph is able to do that with God's help

And before you know it Joseph is PM of Egypt

And he's able to save his whole family plus thousands of others from starving to death

I wonder if Joseph thought he would be PM when he was down that dry well?

I wonder if Joseph thought he would be PM when he was in jail?

Notice we never hear him grizzle or complain once throughout the whole story

He trusts God all the way through

A big lesson for us to trust God throughout our lives - through the good times (that's easy) and the bad times (not so easy)

The bottom line is God's in control

And God has a plan - for each of us

That's what Joseph realizes at the end of the story in Genesis 50:20

In fact that verse is our memory verse

[Powerpoint 2-Memory Verse]

Joseph says to his brothers:

You tried to harm me, but God made it turn out for the best, so that he could save all these people, as he is now doing

God is able to turn bad situations around and bring good out of them

The brothers wanted to get rid of Joseph - but God used that to move Joseph to Egypt and make him PM so he could save all his family and many others as well!

If you know me a little - you'll know I'm always saying that the Bible is all about Jesus (actually Jesus said that too!) - and so the Old Testament part of the Bible points to Jesus

So how does the story of Joseph point to Jesus?

Joseph's dad Jacob - had 12 sons including Joseph

Those 12 sons became the 12 tribes of a new nation called Israel

Israel is the country that Jesus was born and lived in whilst on this Earth

Jesus' family came from the descendants of one of those 12 sons - the tribe of Judah

When Jesus lived on this Earth - He started a new Israel - His church - with how many apostles?

12 of course!

The 12 apostles formed Jesus' church family - which we are all part of

But that's not the only comparisons between Joseph's story and Jesus

Here's some more:

[Powerpoint 3-Comparisons]

Joseph was loved very much by His Father	The Father said this about Jesus: "This is my Beloved Son"
Joseph's brothers didn't believe him and hated him	The people of Israel - the Jews - mostly didn't believe Jesus when He said He is the Son of God
Joseph's brothers plotted to kill him	The Jews plotted to kill Jesus
They stripped Joseph of his coat	The Romans soldiers stripped Jesus
Joseph was sold for silver to slave traders	Jesus was sold for silver by Judas
Joseph's own brothers didn't recognize him when they came to Egypt and saw him	The Jews did not recognize Jesus as the Son of God and the Messiah
Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife and didn't sin	Jesus was tempted in all things by Satan but NEVER sinned
POWERPOINT 4 Joseph was put in jail on false charges	Jesus was sentenced to death because of false charges
Joseph was condemned with 2 criminals in jail - one survived the other didn't	Jesus was crucified with 2 criminals - one survived the other didn't
Joseph's brothers bowed their knees to him	Every knew will bow at the name of Jesus - the Apostle Paul says in Phil 2:10

Joseph was 30 years old when he started his job for Pharaoh	Jesus was 30 years old when he started his ministry on earth Luke 3:25
When Joseph's brothers plotted to get rid of Joseph - they didn't know that God had a plan to save everyone from starvation	When the Jews plotted to kill Jesus - they didn't realize that that was also God's plan. Their plot was for a bad and wicked reason but God's plan was for an amazing reason - so that Jesus would die for people's sin to be forgiven

So when we think about that memory verse again - we can change it slightly to refer to Jesus instead of the story of Joseph...

[Powerpoint 5-Jesus verse]

You KILLED ME [JESUS] but God [The Father] made it turn out for the best, so that I [JESUS] could save ALL PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN ME [JESUS], as I [JESUS] am now doing

[Powerpoint 6a-Salvation]

You see Jesus brought SALVATION - that's the letters we've been building up this term

[Powerpoint 6b-Saved from harm]

Salvation is being saved from harm

Joseph saved his family from harm - saved them from dying from starvation

Our sin causes us harm - because it damages our relationship with God - and our sin deserves to be punished

But Jesus died on the cross - to save us from the punishment of sin

And swapped our punishment for forgiveness

And then he didn't stay dead (Joseph did) - Jesus rose

So we can have life with God forever

[Powerpoint 6c-Saved from sin and death]

That's salvation - being saved from sin and death by Jesus - and given forgiveness and eternal life instead

Q & A

Let's pray...