

Bible reading Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Hymn 519- Singing-The Faith- Father I place in your hands  
the things I cannot do

### Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.' So he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.' So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking?' 'I am seeking my brothers,' he said; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.' The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not

take his life.' Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him'—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there 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. When 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.

### *New International Version (NIV)*

#### Reflection

Each time I read the text it reminds me of the pain of being betrayed by the people we love. Poor Joseph had gone to check on his brothers but when they saw him they plotted

evil against him. The other brothers wanted to kill him and throw his body in a pit but Reuben saved Joseph from being killed by his brothers. The hate that had manifested in Joseph's brothers was not of their own making but from God because God had better plans for Joseph. This is why Isaiah 55:8-9 says your plans are not my plans, your thoughts are not my thoughts and your ways are not my ways. If God had told Joseph to go to Egypt at such a tender age maybe Jacob his father could have said Nope! Didn't Jonah try to run away from God. Would we obey God if He tries to send us to some foreign land. Not sure if we would go! Sometimes God uses people around us to fulfil His agenda. God used Joseph's brothers to sell him to the Ishmalietes who took him to Egypt. There are unpleasant things that happened in our lives which changed our lives for the positive. Even though at the time it pained us but the outcome is/was pleasant. We might not know what happened but it was all God's plan. We may keep asking God why because God's plans are hidden from us. Some of us might be grappling with our current situation wondering what went wrong but we are being reminded that nothing catches God unawares. God knew the dates and times of the current happenings in the whole world. All we have to do is to be still before the Lord (Psalm 46:10). Let's continue to hold on, for God's plans will be revealed in the

course of time. All we have to do is to hold on to our faith and wait upon the Lord. **Hallelujah!** 🙏🙏

### **Prayer**

Father we place into your hands the things we cannot do. Father we place into your hands the times we have been through for we know we can trust you. We acknowledge that your ways are not our ways, your plans are not our plans and your thoughts are not our thoughts. We are going through unpleasant times but all we do is to hold on to your hand. It is confusing and painful but we know you are in control. Help us Lord to be the people that you want us to be without losing our faith. As your children we follow you in faith. Strengthen and embolden us in all we do in Jesus name. **Amen** 🙏🙏🙏

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Marriott, Hosford and Drayton) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Words of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!***