**Sermon Notes - Sunday 26th February**

**Encountering God**

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Service Readings Genesis 37: 1 – 11; Romans 8: 28-39

Further Reading Genesis 37, and chapters 39-50

**Justice and injustice**

Psalm 105: 18 We learn that Joseph’s journey to Egypt as a slave was not pleasant; “they bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons”.

“I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.” Genesis 40: 15

* How do we react to situations of injustice that affect us, especially if perpetated by people we know or who are close to us?

**Reflect on the dangers of favouritism**.

* Later in his life, Joseph was able to look back on the events of his life and see God’s hand in it. Can we do the same?
* Can we see Joseph as a type of Christ?, or how is Joseph a foreshadow of Jesus?

Shielded by God’s power through faith though now for a little while you may have to suffer grief in all kinds of trials (1 Peter 1: 5).

**Money, sex, and power**

* How did Joseph cope with testing?

**Repentance and Forgiveness**

* Joseph desired fellowship and sought to forgive his brothers. What evidence is there that he loved his brothers? Were his brothers finally changed men?
* Joseph could have misused his power. How does Joseph overcome evil with good? 1 Peter 3:9

See Joseph’s summing up and final reassurance: Genesis 50: 15 - 21

**God given gifts**

* What gifts had God given to Joseph?

“I cannot do it, but God will give Pharaoh the answer”

“Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory because of your love and faithfulness” (Psalm 115:1).

* Is Joseph humble? To what extent does he recognize God’s sovereignty?
* How has God revealed his purposes to us?

Ephesians 1: 1 – 14

**God’s sovereignty**

You intended to harm me but God intended it for good, to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50: 20).

* On what note does Genesis 50 end?

**Dreams**

* What other biblical characters had vivid dreams? Which powerful rulers also had dreams that disturbed them? What did the dreams mean?
* What other biblical characters were able to interpret dreams?