

Greenways Benefice Weekly Devotional (No 20)

2 August 2020

Overcoming Treachery: drawing from Joseph

GENESIS 37: 1-36 MATTHEW 26: 14-16, 47-50

Have you ever known the pain of betrayal ? To be betrayed by one's family or friends must be devastating and how could we ever be expected to overcome this. To overcome something is to deal successfully with or control a problem or feeling.

Drawing on the life of Joseph this is exactly what he did. He underwent many trials as a young man but managed to overcome feelings of anger and acts of cruelty against him.

The reading from Genesis describes the sibling rivalry that took place in his family because his brothers were very jealous of him and felt threatened by his dreams. They tried to kill him but instead sold him for twenty pieces of silver to some Midianite traders who took him to Egypt and sold him again to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials. There are no recorded outbursts from Joseph demanding his release or any words of hate towards his brothers.

Likewise in Matthew we read of the betrayal of Jesus. Judas, one of the twelve, plotted against him and was paid thirty pieces of silver to commit treachery. Jesus didn't offer any resistance and said very few words despite his friend betraying him and the other disciples deserting him.

How do we react to hurtful or unfair situations?

Our immediate response is probably to lash out with angry words in retaliation. But in Proverbs 20:22 we read... 'Don't say "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the Lord and he will deliver you.' Easier said than done you may be saying. We may listen to the voice in our heads and want to lash out but we could listen and call on God first. This magnifies God rather than the problem so helping to bring calm to the situation. It is not a call to ignore all manner of things that come against us but rather a call to put our trust in the one who will come to our aid. God wants to work in our hearts, to heal resentment and hate and help us become more like Jesus.

God had a plan for Joseph's life, who went through many trials before he rose to power in the Egyptian Court. He remained faithful to God and overcame the treachery against him by his brothers.

Jesus knew what was going to happen to him following that kiss from Judas but he trusted and obeyed his Father first, even to the point of death so that we might be forgiven.....

Pause to reflect.... and then pray....

Lord, help us to 'wait' and allow you to touch our hearts first before we touch others who may have wronged us. Help us to listen to your voice, to seek your way in our lives and to trust and love you with all our hearts so that others may see you Glorified in us .

Amen.

God bless

Judith