

08/01/2023

## Faithful God and his call to us.

Sermon by Bijoy.

First of all, let me thank God and the pastors (Ps Abri and Ps David), elders of our Church, for giving me this opportunity to share this morning. Also, to Ps Kierohn Sims and friends at the young adults connect group for their constant encouragement and prayers.

To begin with, I would like you to turn your attention to the passage Genesis 42:9

It's the story of Joseph. And he was 17 years old when he was betrayed/abandoned by his brothers. And He was roughly 37 years old when he saw them again. A lot of things have happened in between those 20 years. Verse 37:20 (b) says, "**We shall see what will become of his dreams.**" So the brothers were against his dreams. Devil will always be against the God-given call against your life. Then his brothers stripped him of his tunic of many colors. And put him into the pit. A dark and fearful pit, and here Joseph the dreamer layeth at the bottom. The pit smells like a dungeon, feels like a prison and deep as a valley. His brothers thought /felt the life of Joseph I crushed and buried in a pit.

The enemy can attack you with trials and tribulations, and maybe he can even steal the visible tunic from you. Your job, positions, business, money so on. But he can never steal you from the palm of God. What matters most is the invisible tunic you carry. You are redeemed and adopted by the blood of Jesus, and you eternally belong to God. And nobody can take that away from you.

**John 10:28: "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."**

Now the favourite son of Jacob journeyed from the pit to the slave market. Gen: 37:36 "Meanwhile, the Midianite traders arrived in Egypt, where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard."

The enemy attacked him even there, and he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and was later sent to prison.

Gen: 39:19-21

"Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. **20** So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. **21** But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favourite with the prison warden."

The story doesn't stop there.

**Gen: 41:37-40** "37 Joseph's suggestions were well received by Pharaoh and his officials. 38 So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. 40 You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."

One thing that I could see in Joseph's life is that he was faithful in serving. Life wasn't fair to Joseph, one after another challenges came against him. He was betrayed by his brothers while he went to serve them. He was sold as a slave; and he faithfully serves the household of Potiphar, exceeding the expectations of master. Whether in prison or palace he served faithfully.

Some of us think we want to do great things for God. But I'm too small and insignificant. I'm just a normal person without any specific positions to make a difference. How can I serve? It doesn't matter since scripture says, **in Luke 16:10 (a) "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much..." (Esv).**

I always wanted to be a worship leader, but I'm not a gifted singer. I tried to sing and improve my singing talent, but it didn't work. Then I had a doubt maybe I'm a good singer, but I just don't realize it. So, I decided to take the opinions of my friends. So, one day I asked my friends at the young adults connect group, and they unanimously agreed that I'm not called to be a worship leader. I never saw such unity ever in my life to affirm someone's talent. Such honest friends (haha). But God has given me other talents and giftings to serve him.

Joseph didn't wait to be in the palace to serve, but rather he served and made a difference wherever he was placed.

Now in Gen 42:6 "Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground."

And verse 8-9 says, 8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. 9 Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them,

This is one of the most favourite passages of mine in the bible. Here it says, Joseph is the governor of the land, in a position with immense authority and power. And his brothers came to visit him, they were in need, and they were seeking help. Now the situation has changed. However, the scripture says he recognized his brothers, and he remembered his dreams which God showed him years ago. What an amazing passage. He didn't remember the painful past. Neither did he remember the terrible things his brothers have done to him. He suffered as a slave and was in prison because of his brothers, yet he remembered the faithfulness of God. If I were Joseph, then I would use all my power to hurt them but he served the very people who hurt him the most.

This is what I want to emphasize, God is faithful. **YES, GOD IS FAITHFUL.** Irrespective of all our challenges and pain, God is faithful. Let this sink into your soul, no matter what happens around me, I know God is faithful. We serve a faithful God. And the bible says, Joseph served his brothers in love and grace, not in bitterness. It's easy to criticize, slander and destroy people, but it's not what we are called for. God has called us to build people. God never called us to love just the lovable but everyone, that includes the very person who is different to us, everyone. John Owen says, "God spends a lot of time working in us than he works through us". God was working in Joseph's life through all those 20 years of hardship.

Church we are called to serve. We serve Him because he served us first. Mark 10:45 says, "For even the **Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Can you imagine the humility and love of our Lord Jesus. He is the *logos asarkos* (the word without flesh), the eternal Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, the eternal God dwelled in the heavens on the throne of praise and worship. Eternally enjoying the mutual love and fellowship (*perichoresis*), incarnated in the form of a man, *logos ensarkos* (word in the flesh) to serve the lost and sinful humanity. And He asked his disciples, can I wash your feet? And He washed their feet and served them. He didn't expect any significance but laid them all at the

cross and died the most horrific death, so that we might have life and life in abundance (eternal life).

Now Paul says in Gal 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

What does it mean? It means we are united in Christ through His Spirit. And our life is in Christ, and His life is in us. In other words, through faith and by the Spirit of God we are invited to participate in the life and suffering of Christ. One aspect of participating in the life of Christ is by Serving His people as He served us.

We serve God by serving people

And how are we supposed to serve;

Serve others in prayer (James 5:16)

Serve others in Charity (Mathew 25:35-40)

Serve others without expecting any significance (Mark 9:35)

Serve others as Christ served us (Mathew 20:28)

Serve God wherever and whenever you can

The very fact that we are seated in this place is because someone paid the price for us. Someone prayed for us, loved us and served us. It could be your mother, father, Sunday school teacher, friend, pastor so on. They sacrificially served us and prayed for us. Suppose the second coming/rapture carries a bit away; then in the mercy of God generations will praise God for your faithful sacrifices in serving God.

If you look into the church History, then you will be surprised to know the people who have made a difference in the world (especially in Christendom) are not the ones who have mastered everything but those who passionately loved Jesus and loved people. Hence, they served God by serving people with the love of God.

Some time ago, during my university days, as an engineering student grappled with doubts, questions on faith and anxieties about the future, a university friend of mine gave me a tape of Billy Graham's sermon. It was titled "welcome back home". That night I cried and flooded my

room with tears of repentance and joy. Now I thank God for that faithful friend who changed my life just by giving me a tape. He cared for me enough to leave me in my mess. Look around you, and God will show you a million ways to serve Him.

Serve Him in the Church, at home and everywhere and anywhere possible. Since serving him is our greatest privilege.

When we go to heaven, one thing we can never tell him is that God, you haven't given me enough opportunities because every single day is a brand new opportunity to know him and serve him.