

Lenten Reflection

Friday, Second Week of Lent March 17, 2017



By SisterTheresa Stegman, CDP

The book of Genesis tells us the story of jealous brothers who decided to kill their brother Joseph. They threw him into a cistern to let him die, but his brother Ruben tried to save him. As in God's Providential plan, the brothers decided to give Joseph to some Ishmaelites who took him to Egypt as a slave.

Jealousy, anger, hatred, greed and a myriad of sins are prevalent in our world today. It is our duty as people of faith, to keep our lives in control and also pray for the world in which we live, a world loved by God, who wants His love to be shared rather than be lost on the evil around us.

Parts of Psalm 105 continue to see how great is our God of Providence. He gave Joseph the gifts necessary to know what the country needed to care for their own and still have plenty left over to be able to help people from many regions, including Joseph's own brothers. What a great reunion the brothers had when Joseph told them who he was! God's grace was with Joseph all through his life in Egypt. He never complained of his time there, and even more wonderful, he forgave his brothers for all he had suffered in his ordeal.

Our loving God wants us to forgive both great and minor things that happen to us. We have received and continue to receive the many gifts of God in our lives. Let this Lenten season be an opportunity to take stock of our thoughts, words, and actions that may be on our hearts and minds. We need to be people of love, as Joseph was in all that he had lived through.

Finally, the Gospel tells us the story of the tenants. Instead of being grateful to have a job, they decided to seize and beat or kill the Landowner's servants, then kill his son, believing that they deserved to receive the inheritance of the land. It seems that greed confused their minds.

We are all called to do good and love one another. To believe that we are able to use people or things to our own advantage, rather than help those in need, seems too radical to even consider. May this Lenten season give each of us a new perspective in our lives to know and love one another and our God, who loves us without us even earning it.

