

Sunday 6th August 2017 – Genesis 37:12-36

Beastly Brothers, but God has a Plan!

WELCOME:

Have you wanted to get revenge upon some-one? What did you dream of doing to them?

OR ... have you ever been on the receiving end of some-ones revenge (rightly or wrongly)?

WORSHIP: *Read Psalm 71 together as an act of praise. Finish with a brief moment of quiet reflection.*

WORD: Read Genesis 37:12-36

Joseph sent to find his brothers (12-17)

- Why, do you think, did Jacob send Joseph to find his brothers?
- Do you think it was a good idea?

The journey is the equivalent of walking to Birmingham City centre.

The brother's plan their revenge (18-20)

- What were their motives for planning to kill Joseph?
- Does anyone think they were right? If not why not?

Reuben & Judah – God's Intervention? (21-30)

- Reuben – what was the logic of his argument?
- What was his real motive?
- Judah – what was the logic of his argument?
- What was his real motive?

Read - Jeremiah 29:11 & Genesis 45:4-7

- Do you think this was God's prompting or chance?

Jacob's Grief (31-35)

- Does Jacob over react or is his refusal to be comforted by his family justified.
- Now Read **Lamentations 1:16-17 & Jeremiah 31:15** (which is quoted in Matthew 2:5, note also that Rachel is Jacob's mother and Joseph's grandmother!)
- Does Jacob's grief have significance in the bigger story of the Old Testament?

Do we believe that in all things God has a plan?

- Read **Romans 8:28-39**
- How do these verses of St Paul relate to the story of Joseph?
- How do they relate to your life?
- Do you believe that Jeremiah 29:11 & Romans 8:28 apply to you?

WITNESS:

If your answer to the last question was yes – what difference does that make to the way you live?

Prayer:

Do you know anyone going through a difficult and testing time at the moment?

Pray for them, and for yourselves, that this verse will be true!

*We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. **Romans 8:28***