
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 13, 2017



THE LESSON Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

¹Jacob lived in the land of Canaan where his father was an immigrant. ²This is the account of Jacob's descendants. Joseph was 17 years old and tended the flock with his brothers. While he was helping the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, Joseph told their father unflattering things about them. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he was born when Jacob was old. Jacob had made for him a long robe. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him and couldn't even talk nicely to him. . . .

¹²Joseph's brothers went to tend their father's flocks near Shechem. ¹³Israel said to Joseph, "Aren't your brothers tending the sheep near Shechem? Come, I'll send you to them."

And he said, "I'm ready."

¹⁴Jacob said to him, "Go! Find out how your brothers are and how the flock is, and report back to me."

So Jacob sent him from the Hebron Valley. When he approached Shechem, ¹⁵a man found him wandering in the field and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶Joseph said, "I'm looking for my brothers. Tell me, where are they tending the sheep?"

¹⁷The man said, "They left here. I heard them saying, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

¹⁸They saw Joseph in the distance before he got close to them, and they plotted to kill him. ¹⁹The brothers said to each other, "Here comes the big dreamer. ²⁰Come on now, let's kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns, and we'll say a wild animal devoured him. Then we will see what becomes of his dreams!"

²¹When Reuben heard what they said, he saved him from them, telling them, "Let's not take his life." ²²Reuben said to them, "Don't spill his blood! Throw him into this desert cistern, but don't lay a hand on him." He intended to save Joseph from them and take him back to his father.

²³When Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped off Joseph's long robe, ²⁴took him, and threw him into the cistern, an empty cistern with no water in it. ²⁵When they sat down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with camels carrying sweet resin, medicinal resin, and fragrant resin on their way down to Egypt. ²⁶Judah said to his brothers, "What do we gain if we kill our brother and hide his blood? ²⁷Come on, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites. Let's not harm him because he's our brother; he's family." His brothers

agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph up out of the cistern. They sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver, and they brought Joseph to Egypt.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

¹Give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make his deeds known to all people!

²**Sing to God; sing praises to the Lord; dwell on all his wondrous works!**

³Give praise to God's holy name! Let the hearts rejoice of all those seeking the LORD!

⁴**Pursue the LORD and his strength; seek his face always!**

⁵Remember the wondrous works he has done, all his marvelous works, and the justice he declared—

⁶**you who are the offspring of Abraham, his servant, and the children of Jacob, his chosen ones. . . .**

¹⁶When God called for a famine in the land, destroying every source of food, ¹⁷he sent a man ahead of them, who was sold as a slave: it was Joseph.

¹⁸**Joseph's feet hurt in his shackles; his neck was in an iron collar, ¹⁹until what he predicted actually happened, until what the LORD had said proved him true.**

²⁰The king sent for Joseph and set him free; the ruler of many people released him.

²¹**The king made Joseph master of his house and ruler over everything he owned,**

²²to make sure his princes acted according to his will, and to teach wisdom to his advisors.

^{45b}**Praise the LORD!**

THE EPISTLE Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law: *The person who does these things will live by them.* ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith talks like this: *Don't say in your heart, "Who will go up into heaven?"* (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or *"Who will go down into the region below?"* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it

say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart* (that is, the message of faith that we preach). ⁹Because if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. ¹¹The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won't*

be put to shame. ¹²There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. ¹³*All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.*

¹⁴So how can they call on someone they don't have faith in? And

how can they have faith in someone they haven't heard of? And how can they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, *How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news.*

THE GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33

²²Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he dismissed the crowds. ²³When he sent them away, he went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening came and he was alone. ²⁴Meanwhile, the boat, fighting a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves and was already far away from land. ²⁵Very early in the morning he came to his disciples, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They were so frightened they screamed.

²⁷Just then Jesus spoke to them,

"Be encouraged! It's me. Don't be afraid."

²⁸Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to you on the water."

²⁹And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰But when Peter saw the strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

³¹Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him, saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin to have doubts?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind settled down.

³³Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said, "You must be God's Son!"