

Tuesday, March 3 ♦ I Am My Sister's Keeper ♦ Genesis 37:12-24

His father's favorite, not sure of what life will bring but only that it will be great, he heads off on an errand – and so begins the story of Joseph. The story is very personal. We love the story and even as we read it, we are pulling for Joseph, for we remember all that has happened before in his dreams. We read quickly through the brother's jealousy, for we know jealousy never leads to anything worthwhile. We read with great anticipation of how God will extract Joseph from this terrible situation and bring about God's dream of a nation.

We can identify with the pattern (dream, kicked to the curb, restoration), for it is not unlike our own story or the story of our family. Starting out, we anticipate great things, new things. We are not exactly certain how they will happen, but the future looks bright. Then suddenly we get thrown into pits of many sizes and shapes: loss of income, job termination, medical issues, aging-parent concerns, emotional grief and loss. Like Joseph at the bottom of his pit, we wonder not how God is going to get us out of this mess, but whether God is going to get us out at all.

Then comes grace – we are shown the way out of our pit. And looking back, we wonder how we could have doubted God. Where was our faith? Where is our faith? In this Lenten season

we look back at the pits we have been thrown into, and we give thanks for the grace that has raised us then and will continue to do so through faith. No matter how things seem, our faith should always remain the same.

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1 Corinthians 2:1-13 New International Version (NIV)

2 And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.^[a] **2** For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3** I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. **4** My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's

power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

God's Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived”[b]—
the things God has prepared for those who love him—

10 these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.[c]

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Corinthians 2:1 Some manuscripts proclaimed to you God's mystery
- b. 1 Corinthians 2:9 Isaiah 64:4
- c. 1 Corinthians 2:13 Or Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual