

## Devotion 6- The Suffering Son

Is God in control? Does God have a plan? Can we trust him? The story of Joseph and his brothers help answer these questions. Joseph was one of twelve brothers. His father, Jacob, loved him more than any of his sons. Joseph was also very cocky; He would tell his brothers of the dreams he had of them bowing down to him. Because of this, Joseph's brothers hated him.

Joseph's brothers devised a plot to kidnap him and sell him to a foreign people. They threw Joseph into a pit and he was sent to the nation of Egypt. In Egypt, Joseph was given control of a high officer's house. But the officer's wife accused Joseph of doing evil things that he never did. She lied to get him into trouble.

Because of this, Joseph was thrown into prison. Joseph went from being the favorite son of his father, to being sold by his brothers, to being accused of something he never did, to being thrown into prison. Joseph's life was spiraling downward.

But Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, needed someone to interpret his dreams. He heard that Joseph, the Israelite, could interpret the dreams he had been having. Joseph was successful and Pharaoh made him second-in-command over all of Egypt. Joseph, a lowly Israelite, was made the 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful man in Egypt.

Many years later, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt because of a great drought. Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and his brothers were shocked to see him alive. They were fearful of him and thought that Joseph might get revenge for the evil they did to him. Joseph's response to his brothers is found in Genesis 50:20- "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

God is in control of all things. He has a grand plan. Even when evil comes into the world, God can use it for his good. You can go to God in any situation. You can cry out to him. He is a good and loving God.

Questions to Consider:

1. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?
2. Would it have been easy for Joseph to doubt God's plan? Why?
3. When difficult things happen in your life, who do you run to?