

Day 5

Brothers or Botherers?

Read - Genesis 42:1-38

Reflect - My next-door neighbor has a brother that is three years younger. He retired early and bought a huge motor-home and an SUV to pull behind. Like a nomad, he wanders America's highways. For more than three years she lost track of her brother. Then, a funny thing happened when my neighbors were on vacation traveling along the East Coast. Somewhere in South Carolina they decided to stop and eat at this small-town, hole-in-the-wall diner. As my neighbors entered the diner, the husband went to get a seat and the wife headed for the ladies' room. As she passed the manager's office, the door swung open and a man came out, bumping into her. She was startled to look up and see her brother. As the siblings were recovering from the shock and surprise, each asked the other, "What are you doing here?"

Can you imagine what must have run through Joseph's mind when his ten brothers showed up? Years before they had sold him into slavery...now they were at Joseph's mercy. But the Bible says that what the brothers meant for evil God used for good. Joseph ultimately showered his brothers with blessing and was reunited with his father and eleven brothers. Through his trials in a foreign land, and especially after being left for dead by his brothers, Joseph didn't get bitter; he got better.

Respond - Did you know that all the bad things in your past God can use for good? Don't believe me? Believe God; read Romans 8:28. Some Christians think that past sins are hindrances for serving God. But God thinks differently than humans. The Bible says that our ways are not His ways. Our thoughts are not His thoughts. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive them. So don't let past problems stand in the way of present and future service to the God who doesn't even remember forgiven and forgotten sins. He will make something good of the bad, and then use it to bless others.

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Nameless Hero

I can't give the name of this student because of security reasons. Some of the greatest heroes of the faith will never be known. Awe Star had sent a team into China to serve among the Uigers. At that time there were only three known believers among this people group. This young lady felt so strongly that God had called her to entwine her life among theirs. After she came back home, she raised the money to move back for a year. One year has turned into many. She met and married a Uiger pastor and has totally given her life to reach this unknown people group. I wonder if she ever imagined that she would find total fulfillment among a people halfway around the world.