

July 16, 2023

“Maybe Perseverance and Forgiveness is the Best Revenge?”

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Worship: 10:00 AM

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Cell: 970-412-7510



SEASON OF PENTACOST

1. GATHERING

“Perseverance is more prevailing than violence; and many things which cannot be overcome when they are together, yield themselves up when taken little by little.” — Plutarch

Musical Prelude (Stan)

Call to Worship - #851 (Steve)

Opening Prayer - #1013 (Steve)

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

All: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.



“Permanence, perseverance and persistence in spite of all obstacles, discouragements, and impossibilities: It is this, that in all things distinguishes the strong soul from the weak.” — Thomas Carlyle

“Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other.” — Walter Elliot

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish."
— John Quincy Adams

Scripture: Genesis 37:3-36, Genesis 39:6-19

Genesis 37:3 Now Jacob loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. 5 Once Joseph had a dream... 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed. 7 There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf." 8 His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words...

13 And Jacob said to Joseph, "I will send you to see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." 18 When they saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. 20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits... and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

24 ...and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. 25 Then they

sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels... on their way down to Egypt. 26 Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites... they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt... 36 and they sold him to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard...

Genesis 39:6 Now Joseph was handsome and good-looking. 7 And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."

8 But he refused ...11 One day, however, when he went into the house to do his work, and while no one else was in the house, 12 she caught hold of his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside...

19 When his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, "This is the way your servant treated me," he became enraged.

20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison.



SERMON: "Maybe Perseverance and Forgiveness is the Best Revenge?" (Steve)

Today we will hear a story about a modern day Joseph who also rose above false allegations and incarceration through perseverance and forgiveness.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it." — Mark Twain

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (Stan)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering & Music (Stan)

Sending - #922: We Are Not Alone (Steve)

"Failure after long perseverance is much grander than never to have a striving good enough to be called a failure."
— George Eliot