

Sermon for Sunday 9 August 2020 @ Bethesda

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Scriptures: Genesis 37:1-4 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5:15;

Matthew 14:22-33

*“What we have”*

Continuing our wild ride through the first four generations of the Biblical “first family,” we come today to the Joseph story. It’s a highly dramatic, gripping tale. It’s full of tension: Jealousy, brutality, suffering ... with no word of divine purpose or intervention in today’s section, no defense of father Jacob’s spoiling Joseph, or accusation of the older brothers’ crime and lying. If you all learned this as a kid in Sunday School, you probably still remember it vividly. All we can say is, “There it is. Our story, warts and all,” if we want to say, as we do @ baptism, that scripture contains full and sufficient information for developing a life of Christian faith.

The psalm for today we just used a couple of weeks back, sings God’s praise while reminding us of God’s promise to use Abraham as a founder of a new humanity ... but the purpose of singing it today is the brief mention of the Joseph story we’re beginning today, with the promise things will turn out better than they’ve begun this week.

Continuing with Paul, we are taken up once again into a fast and furious dance of ideas that goes far past Paul’s dramatic assertion of last week. Remember he’s preaching Jesus ... and yet totally Jewish all at the same time ... just like Jesus, which we used to forget in Sunday school almost completely.