

Cindy Cottone

# The Bible Corner



## Joseph in Egypt

"Stop! Where are you taking me?" Joseph sobbed. "My home is in the opposite direction. Please take me to my father," he pleaded.

"Quiet down and keep walking if you know what's good for you," one of the men ordered. "We bought you for 20 pieces of silver and we own you now."

Joseph strained to look back as his 10 brothers faded in the distance. *How could they have done this to me? Will I ever see Father again?* he thought, as he choked back the tears.

"He's right, you know," a voice suddenly said. "You are only making it worse for yourself." Joseph turned to see a boy about his own age — 16 or so.

"You don't understand," Joseph said through his tears. "I don't belong here. I have a family and a home in Canaan."

"Well, if you don't mind me saying so," the boy replied kindly. "Wasn't it your own family that sold you to the Ishmaelite traders in the first place?"

"If Father had been there, this never would have happened," Joseph snapped.

Then, seeing the boy's downcast look, he said, "I'm sorry, it's not your fault. What's your name?"

"My name is Seth," he said, smiling.

"How did you end up here?" Joseph asked sadly.

"I've never had a real home or a family except for my mother," Seth began. "She was a cook in a household and I used to help her there until she died," he said, his voice trailing off. "After she died, I was sold to another household. But, it wasn't really all that bad."

"And what now?" asked Joseph anxiously.

"My last master was deep in debt, and in order to pay his creditors, he sold me. A good servant usually brings a pretty good price," he said laughing. "You'll see when we get to Egypt."

"Egypt!" Joseph moaned. "Is that where we're going?"

"I'm afraid so," Seth answered. "There's a large slave market in Egypt because there are many rich people always looking for good, strong help."

"But Egypt is so far from home!" Joseph sighed.

Later that night, while everyone else was asleep in the camp, Joseph knelt down and prayed. "Oh, God, I'm so afraid! Please help me. I miss my family so much already."

The next day, Joseph was surprised when Seth said, "Who were you talking to last night, Joseph?"

"I was talking to God."

"Which one?" Seth asked.

"There is only one true God, Seth," Joseph explained. "My father taught me all about God. He made a promise to His people long ago — a promise that will never be broken. God promised to always watch over and guide us if we believe in Him. But we have to learn to trust God, too. No matter what happens, we have to trust Him, and that's called faith. I guess that's why I'm feeling better today. If I keep on trusting God, it's going to be all right in Egypt."

Seth thought for a few moments about what Joseph had told him. Then he turned to him and said, "Joseph, will you do me a favor?"

"What is it, Seth?"

"The next time you pray to God, will you ask Him to send me to be a servant in a family with someone my own age?"

"I have a better idea," Joseph replied. "Tonight we'll both pray to God together."

Two days later, the caravan arrived in Egypt. Soon both Joseph and Seth had been placed in the center square where the

slaves were put up for sale. In a few moments, someone did purchase Seth. Before he left, he turned to Joseph and said, "Joseph, I'm glad to have met you. Thank you for teaching me about God and how to talk to Him. I think I'm starting to understand about faith!"

"It'll be okay, you'll see. Goodbye, Seth," Joseph called after him.

Shortly after Seth had gone, a man named Potiphar bought Joseph. Potiphar lived in a very fine house because he was the captain of Pharaoh's guard. God was with Joseph and blessed Potiphar's household because of his presence there. In a short time, Potiphar was so pleased with Joseph that he gave him full responsibility for everything Potiphar owned. Meanwhile, far away in Canaan, Joseph's father, Israel, still mourned his loss.

**For discussion:**

- 1) What did Joseph's father teach him about God?
- 2) Did God promise us a trouble-free life as Christians?
- 3) How does our belief in Jesus affect the way we act when we have problems in our lives?

**For further reading:**

- 1) Joseph's travels to Egypt are found in Genesis, Chapter 39.
- 2) God's promises to us through His Son, Jesus: Gospel of John, Chapter 14.

## Sisters of Mercy prepare for teleconference

Three thousand Sisters of Mercy across the country will observe Mercy Day on Saturday, September 27, by participating in a 90-minute nationwide teleconference focusing on the sisters' ministries to and for women.

Assembled at 25 locations in 22 states, the sisters will be asked to reflect on their experiences with helping women who are homeless or lacking adequate education.

All of the teleconference sites will be "interactive," allowing participants in each location to contribute their comments or questions by telephone to the national audience.

A highlight of the teleconference will be "Beyond Giving: Mercy Ministry with Women," a 10-minute video presentation specifically commissioned for the Mercy Day program.

The video presentation will focus on three unique educational projects — a year-round school in Oakland, Cal.; a high school program for drop-outs in Chicago; and a basic skills program for rural women in Cresson, Pa. Mercy Hospice for homeless women in Philadelphia and the Denver Housing Project will demonstrate two cre-

ative approaches to sheltering the homeless and the poor.

The teleconference will feature a panel of Mercy Sisters involved in various aspects of the sisters' ministries to and for women.

Panelists will include: Sister Mary Brian Costello, RSM, superintendent of schools, Archdiocese of Chicago; Sister Patricia Ann Smith, RSM, associate professor of systematic theology at St. Mary Seminary and University, Baltimore; Sister Mary Sullivan, RSM, dean and professor of language and literature at the College of Liberal Arts, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester; and Sister Mary Terese Tracey, RSM, president and CEO, Mercy Housing

Inc., Denver, Colo.

Sister Camille D'Arienzo, RSM, associate professor of radio and television at Brooklyn College and associate editor of *The Tablet*, will host the teleconference and moderate the panel.

The Mercy Day teleconference will originate from the Instructional Television studio of the Archdiocese of New York in Yonkers and will be produced by the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America in cooperation with the Federation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Major funding is being provided by the Catholic Communications Campaign.

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