

## *Second Friday of Lent – 2/22*

"Israel 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. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him." (Genesis 37:3-4)

Imagine that you have just finished a picnic lunch in the park. You notice that there is a little ant crawling toward an uncovered piece of cake. You don't cover it up because after all it is really only one little ant. At that moment someone draws your attention away and you forget the piece of cake. Later when you come back to the picnic table you see that the piece of cake is now covered with ants. One ant led to many more ants and the cake is history!

Israel is a lot like our first little ant. He began a cycle of unfortunate events when he blatantly showed his favoritism for Joseph. Joseph, you may recall, was not unaware that he was daddy's boy, and at times he exhibited a superior attitude when he was around his brothers. The brothers then built up such hatred that they decided to do away with their brother. Like the gathering of our ants, one, by one, by one the choices made by members of this family led to greater and greater heartache and destruction. For too often sin begets greater sin.

Most parents probably have a favorite amongst their children. The reasons for favoritism are many and actually are probably unavoidable. Being human we naturally will find that we will like certain characteristics over others. A parent may like the sense of humor that a child has. Another may appreciate the sensitivity that one of their children exhibits. It doesn't mean that the parent doesn't love the other children. It just means that there is a child that they are somehow just naturally drawn toward.

Israel, unfortunately, seems to flaunt his preference of Joseph over the other brothers and Joseph doesn't help matters because he seemed to gloat over his brothers. This is obviously a recipe for trouble. The crime of the brothers is terrible but it is the result of ripples of bad choices and spoiled relationships.

Not all bad choices end in chaos; but today perhaps we could examine where the last piece of gossip I shared ended up? How have my attitudes and actions affected the attitudes and actions of the person next to me?

### *Reflection Questions*

- 1. Whom do I envy? How can I release that envy?*
- 2. What choice can I make tomorrow that will pass on God's love?*

*Prayer: Lord, let my love always leave room for one more person. Amen.*