

## Dreams and Deceptions

Genesis 37:1-8  
Matthew 14:22-33

August 13, 2017  
Faith Community

Jacob had a whole mess of kids, including twelve boys, the next to the youngest of whom, son number 11, was Joseph.

He's 17 years old when we pick up the story. He's Daddy's golden boy, which of course brings with it all kinds of trouble as far as the brothers are concerned.

You'd think Jacob would've known better, since he came from a family that played favorites with disastrous results, but he keeps the dubious tradition alive by relieving little Joe from the chores all his brothers had to do. While they were out working hard, he got to stay home. One day the brothers got in some kind of trouble, and when Joseph found out, he went right to dear old dad with the news, and you can imagine how that went down. Then he had some outrageous dreams in which he was king of the world with his brothers bowing down to him, and had the chutzpah to tell them about.

At this point in his life, Joseph does not appear to be the sharpest knife in the drawer.

The last straw was Daddy's gift to Joseph of a 'richly ornamented robe,' a coat of many colors. This display of swagalicious sartorial splendor went all the way to his wrists and ankles, and one look proclaimed to the world that Joseph is all kinds of fine, a mixture of Michael Jackson, Lady Gaga, Don Cherry and Prince William on his wedding day. He's the king of bling. Whenever the brothers saw him in it, they burned a little more.

Read the story of Joseph. It takes up most of the final fourteen chapters in Genesis and is filled with jealousy, deception, dishonesty and heartache. Through it all he grows up and is used mightily by God to rescue his entire family. He becomes a gracious man who uses his power wisely, giving glory to God every step of the way.

God was very much alive and active in this convoluted mess of a family. The ancestry of the Chosen People right up through Jesus himself is traced through the craziness.

Joseph is transformed from a naïve, pampered and clueless doofus to a man with wisdom beyond his years. It's a God thing!

In the New Testament, the apostle Peter is transformed from a well intentioned buffoon who desperately wanted to belong, to the Rock on which Christ himself built his church.

Friends, as long as you're drawing breath there is great hope for you.

- God can take the messes you've made and turn them into something beautiful.
- Failure is never final without your permission.
- Hope is a choice before it's anything else.

Remember the twin towers of hope from a few weeks ago:

**I am not defined by my past.**

**I will not put boundaries around my future.**

Watch Joseph.  
Watch Peter.  
How about you?