

Reflection 09 Aug 2020

Tay

Deliverer of peace and receiver of peace.

Today, the Old Testament reading introduces Joseph's story, and the stories about Joseph dominate the rest of Genesis. Joseph is the eleventh son of Jacob and the firstborn of Rachel, his favourite wife. So, Jacob showed favouritism to him, and even he made him a long robe with sleeves; a coat of many colours; an expensive coat. The favouritism Jacob showed to Joseph created other sons' jealousy and anger that led to their attempted murder.

However, that does not mean that Jacob did not love and care for the rest of his sons. When they went to Shechem, Jacob sent Joseph to his brothers to find out whether they were well or not. The word, shalom, is used in the sentence. So, Joseph was sent for Shalom to his brothers. Here, we can see two parties: Deliverer of peace and receiver of peace.

My reflection on this passage is that,

No matter who we are, deliverer or receiver, God still wants to send peace to us and through us. Joseph was acting like a spy on his brother, and he was the most favourite one, so he might think he was better than others. But he was delivering peace. The other brothers hated him and even were thinking to murder him. But they were still those who their father wanted to receive peace. Although both deliverer and receiver had no intention to grab peace, there was still peace on them from their father.

This story has very much similarity to Jesus'. Jesus was sent for peace as a Son to other brothers and sisters. But they, the Bible says the world, rejected him, mocked him, and took off his robe and attempted to kill him. But God's intention for peace to them was still with them. God so loved the world.

We live as a receiver of peace: the life of accepting God's peace, love, mercy, and compassion. We live as a deliverer of peace: the life of sending God's peace and love to those who don't know, to those who ignore and to those who hate and persecute us, deliverer. We are people of peace in this world.

“the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:7)

Amen.