

Today we are reflecting on 'Why do things happen the way they do?

As we know, sometimes life makes sense, but at other times we are left asking whether our circumstances are shaped by our choices, by chance, or by the hand of God.

Joseph's story in Genesis addresses these questions. As a young man, he was loved by his father and given dreams of a remarkable future. Yet everything changed when his jealous brothers sold him into slavery. In Egypt he served faithfully, only to be falsely accused and imprisoned. Through every hardship, however, Scripture quietly repeats, *"The Lord was with Joseph."*

Years later, Joseph was called before Pharaoh to interpret troubling dreams. Through God's wisdom he foretold seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine and proposed a plan to save the nation. Pharaoh appointed him ruler over Egypt, second only to himself. God had been preparing Joseph for this moment through every setback and disappointment.

When famine brought Joseph's brothers to Egypt seeking food, Joseph chose forgiveness instead of revenge. Looking back over his life he could say, *"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good"* (Genesis 50:20). Their evil actions were real, but God had worked through them to preserve many lives and to protect the family through whom his plan of salvation would continue.

The Apostle Paul echoes this truth in Romans 8:28, assuring us that God works through all circumstances for the good of those who love him. In 1 Corinthians 13:12, he reminds us that we see only part of the picture. Like Joseph, we often recognise God's purposes only in hindsight.

So perhaps the better question is not, *"Why has this happened?"* but, *"Lord, where are you in this? Help me to trust you today."* We may not understand everything this side of heaven, but we can trust

God who sees the whole picture and whose peace sustains us each day.