

MARCH 6, 2026 FATHER STEVE DEMAIO

Today, as we continue our Lenten journey, we have the beautiful but difficult story of Joseph. And we know the story of Joseph, that he was sold into slavery and eventually he was able to bring the people, and to provide for the people, and I really invite you to read the whole story of Joseph.

But for today, just to make the parallel between the story of Joseph and this gospel. And we see that the name of Joseph actually means “to gather,” “to collect.” And so, in this face of destruction when his brothers sold him into slavery, they wanted to kill him. He ends up being sold into Egypt. That in the face of destruction Joseph, because of the grace of God, eventually begins to gather people, and then he's the one who's going to give out the food, and during the famine he's going to really bring life, bring salvation, bring peace, bring joy, bring all of that.

And so, just to see that in this face of destruction, in the face of suffering, in the face of pain, that Joseph has this heart that wants to gather, this heart that wants to do the will of God.

And we can see the same thing in the gospel, that God has prepared this vineyard, He has prepared everything, and then there's those who want to destroy. But Jesus is going to be the one who draws all people to himself on the cross. And so, he has this heart that wants to gather.

So, in the face of suffering, in the face of violence, in the face of persecution, all of these difficult and destructive things, through the grace of God Joseph, then we have Jesus, and then, ideally, ourselves, that we will still have this heart that wants to gather, that wants to do the will of God.

And a beautiful parallel is we see that Joseph brings salvation through food. Right? That in this place of famine, in the place of the desert, Joseph has this opportunity to gather people and provide people through food. And we see the same with our Lord. He brings salvation through the Eucharist, through His body, through His blood, that He brings salvation through this meal, through this sacrifice.

And so, we really ask for the grace to be like Joseph, that in the face of so much pain and so much suffering that we can still have this heart that wants to gather, then we can really keep our hearts on Jesus, that he may give us the grace to be part of that as well, you know, to continue to gather, to bring redemption, to really do the will of the Father, even in the face of this destruction.

And as I was praying through this I was really reminded of Romans 8, one of my favourites. I think all of us should have these kind of quotes, of Scripture quotes, that kind of we keep in our pocket so that we can bring them out at times of difficulty. And Romans 8:28 says that, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Joseph had no idea what was happening, he had no idea why this was happening to him, he didn't know how God was going to work. But, at the end of the day, God worked, God used the evil, and the difficulty, and the suffering. He was able to bring good even out that difficult situation.

And so, I think during this month of Lent and preparing for Easter, it's just a call for us to continue to trust that grace is working, God is working. In the end, God wins. In the end, the victory is His. And so, trying to trust that we know, we hope, we trust that all things work for the good for those who love God.

And so, let us wake up every morning and try to love God, trusting that He is working.

And the last thing that I was praying through was, just how difficult and destructive this comparison, this jealousy, we see of the brothers. That it said that Joseph's father loved him more than all the other brothers. And what did that lead to? It led to comparison, it led to jealousy, and it led to destruction.

And I find that can be the same in our families, can be the same in our workplaces, can be the same in our... in our religious communities. That when we begin to compare ourselves with others, when we begin to want what they have, when we begin to be jealous, this selfishness leads to destruction because sin will always lead to destruction.

And so, this predilection that God cannot but love us, God is love, God loves us, but He's going to love each one individually in a specific way. So, the fact that God is giving maybe gifts to somebody else, or they have natural talents, or we feel like there's some predilection, that doesn't mean exclusion. Right? Just because God is pouring His gifts in this special way for this person doesn't mean that we are unloved.

And so, I think, again, during this Lenten season just trying to trust that we are seen, we are loved, we are giving gifts. And to really renounce any kind of spirit of comparison, of jealousy, because that will really lead to destruction.

And, at the end of the day, may we, like the Psalmists, remember the marvels of the Lord. What He has done in our life, what He has done in salvation history. Let us remember the marvels, and let us continue to journey.

And if I can kind of finish in kind of a selfish way, today, March 6th, is actually my birthday. So, selfishly, taking the chance to ask for prayers, that I would really love to be a holy and good Salesian priest. But I know that I cannot do that without grace, and I cannot do that without the prayers.

And so, this is a real privilege to be able to ask so many people for prayers. So, if you wouldn't mind to pray for me, and that I may continue to try to do the will of the Father, to really keep my eyes focused on Jesus, and to continue to live the gospel.

So I really wish you a beautiful Lenten season as you prepare for Easter. And may we continue to remember the marvels of the Lord. And by dying to self, we are born to eternal life.