



Advent Day 8 (by Deb Bakken)

Joseph's Coat

Genesis 45:4-8

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years

there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt." (NIV 1984)

What's your favorite food? What's your favorite color? Sometimes it is fine to have favorites. Our favorite things make us not just happy, but also unique.

It is not good when parents have favorite children. The stories in the Bible about Joseph show what kinds of terrible problems come up when families have favorites. Joseph and his brothers were tempted to many sins because Joseph was his father's favorite. One day, Joseph's brothers got rid of him for good. They sold him to slave merchants on their way to Egypt.

God had a better plan. Joseph was not gone for good. God blessed Joseph, and he became a ruler in Egypt. Many years later, when his brothers went to Egypt to buy grain, Joseph did not get revenge. Instead he told them how good God had been.

There is a t-shirt that says, "You are a child of God—but I'm his favorite!" We are all God's favorite children. He sent his Son to save each one of us from our sins. When God picks his favorite children, it is more than just fine. It is wonderful.

Prayer: God, thank you for making me your favorite child. Help me to be happy about that every day. Amen.