

# ALL THAT GOD DOES IS DONE WELL

(Romans 8:26-39)

- Intro: Let me tell you a tale from Jewish folk lore.
- Man was traveling.
    - #In a strange land.
    - #During turbulent times.
  - He took along three possessions.
    - #Lamp.
    - #Rooster.
    - #Donkey.
  - He stopped one night in a small village.
    - #Hoping to find lodging for the night.
    - #There were no rooms to be had.
  - He went to spend the night in a forest.
    - #Instead of cursing his misfortune.
      - \*He said:
        - +“All that God does is done well.”
  - Once in the forest.
    - #He lit his lamp.
    - #He sat down under a tree to study.
    - #Wind blew out his flame.
      - \*Leaving him in the dark.
    - #Instead of cursing the darkness.
      - \*He said:
        - +“All that God does is done well.”
  - He began to get ready for bed.
    - #Wild animals came.
      - \*In the forest darkness.
      - \*Chased away his rooster.
    - #He went to sleep saying:
      - \*“All that God does is done well.”
  - As he slept.
    - #Thieves came and stole his donkey.
    - #When he awoke the next morning to discover his loss.
      - \*He repeated his familiar adage:
        - +“All that God does is done well.”
  - He then returned to the village.
    - #Where he had sought lodging the evening before.
    - #Found that an enemy.
      - \*Had killed all the people in their beds.

- He also learned that this enemy.
  - #Had traveled through the forest.
    - \*Near where he had been sleeping.
  - #Any of his three possessions.
    - \*Lamp.
    - \*Rooster.
    - \*Donkey.
      - +Could have given him away.

All that God does is done well.

## I. Do We Believe It?

### A. December 1987.

1. My home in St. Louis was burglarized.
2. Number of other calamities occurred.
  - a. One after the other.
  - b. Which I don't even remember anymore.
  - c. But I was bummed out big time.
3. I called my folks in Wisconsin.
  - a. Not much they could do.
  - b. I just needed to talk to them.
    - They were:
      - #Supportive.
      - #Encouraging.
      - \*As usual.
4. Though I didn't know it at the time.
  - a. That was the last time I would ever talk with my mom.
  - b. Nine days later she was dead.
5. All that God does is done well.

### B. Do You Remember The Story Of Joseph?

1. Joseph in the Old Testament.
  - a. Genesis 37-50.
  - b. With his coat of many colors.
  - c. *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.*
    - My favorite Andrew Lloyd Webber musical.
2. Joseph was his father's favorite.
  - a. Hence, the Technicolor dreamcoat.
  - b. But there were consequences for this favoritism.

3. Joseph was a dreamer.
  - a. One of his dreams.
    - 11 sheaves of wheat.
    - #Bowling down to another sheaf of wheat.
  - b. Joseph told his brothers:
    - “This means you will be bowing down to me.”
4. Joseph’s brothers were jealous.
  - a. They didn’t want to hear all that.
  - b. They wanted to get rid of him.
  - c. They were going to kill him.
    - Until an older brother.
    - #Reuben.
    - Said:
      - #“Let’s not kill him.”
      - #“Let’s just send him off somewhere.”
  - d. So instead they:
    - Jumped on Joseph.
    - Beat him up.
    - Tied him up.
    - Threw him in a pit.
    - Sold him to the Ishmaelites.
      - #Who carried him off to Egypt.
      - \*Where Joseph became a slave.
      - +In the house of a man by the name of Potiphar.
  - e. Joseph was:
    - Good.
    - Loyal.
    - Trustworthy.
    - #Slave.
  - f. There was just one problem.
    - Mrs. Potiphar.
      - #Had the “hots” for Joseph.
    - He was a handsome young man.
    - Mrs. Potiphar kept trying to seduce him.
      - #Before there was Mrs. Robinson.
      - \*In *The Graduate*.
      - #There was Mrs. Potiphar.
  - g. Joseph kept resisting.
    - Saying:
      - #“No, no, no, no.”
      - #“I can’t do this.”
      - #“I can’t betray my master’s trust.”

- h. One day they were home alone.  
 -Joseph.  
 -Mrs. Potiphar.  
 #She came on to him.  
 #He resisted.  
 #She grabbed his robe.  
 #He ran out of the house naked.  
 #She cried, "Rape."  
 #Joseph landed in jail.  
 \*Maybe wondering:  
 +"What in the world did I ever do to deserve all this?"
- i. While he was in jail.  
 -Joseph met:  
 #Butler.  
 #Baker.  
 \*Who worked for the king.  
 +Pharaoh.  
 -They had some dreams.  
 #Joseph helped them interpret.  
 -Joseph said:  
 #"When you get back in the good graces of the Pharaoh,"  
 #"Remember your old buddy Joseph."  
 \*One of them.  
 +Baker.  
 =Never did get back in the good graces of the Pharaoh.  
 \*Other promptly forgot his jailhouse buddy.
- j. Until one day the Pharaoh had some dreams.  
 -No one could interpret.  
 #Until his butler remembered:  
 \*"Hey, that time you had me in the County Jail,"  
 \*"There was a guy who could interpret dreams."  
 +"Guy by the name of Joseph."  
 #Pharaoh sent for Joseph.  
 -One of the dreams.  
 #Seven fat cows.  
 \*Came up out of the river.  
 #Seven skinny cows.  
 \*Came up out of the river.  
 \*Ate the fat cows.  
 -Joseph said:  
 #"This means there will be seven years of good harvests,"  
 \*"And then seven years of lean harvests."

- # "What we should do:"
  - \* "Save up all the extra food we can,"
  - + "During the good years."
  - \* "To tide us through the lean years."
- k. That's exactly what happened.
  - Because he correctly interpreted the dream.
  - # Joseph was put in charge.
  - # He was made Secretary of Agriculture for Egypt.
- 5. Meanwhile back in Canaan.
  - a. There was also famine.
  - b. Joseph's brothers were hungry.
    - But they heard that there was food to be had in Egypt.
  - c. So they went to Egypt to buy food.
    - They had to deal with their brother Joseph.
    - # Although at first they didn't recognize him.
    - They did bow down to him.
    - Joseph pulled their chain a time or two.
- 6. Punch line of the story.
  - a. Joseph finally revealed his identity to them.
  - b. He said:
    - "You meant it for evil."
    - "But God meant it for good."
    - # "To bring to pass as it is today to save many people alive."
    - Genesis 50:20.
  - c. People who were fed and saved.
    - Not just the Egyptians.
    - But Joseph's own brothers.
    - # Who had done him wrong.
- 7. How long did it take for Joseph to recognize the hand of God?
  - a. He was 17 years old.
    - When his brothers sold him into slavery.
  - b. He was 39 years old.
    - When his brothers came looking for food.
  - c. That's 22 years.
    - Did Joseph know from Day One?
    - # All that God does is done well.
    - Did it take Joseph 22 years to figure out?
    - # All that God does is done well.
- C. Sometimes It's Only In Hindsight That We Can See Hand Of God.
  - 1. It can be like looking at a tapestry.
    - a. If you look at the front side.
      - All the threads go together.
      - # To form a nice beautiful pattern.

- b. If you look at it from the back side.
  - There is no pattern.
  - There are:
    - #Threads running this way.
    - #Threads running that way.
    - #Threads hanging down.
- 2. That's often the view that we have.
  - a. When things are seemingly going wrong.
    - Nothing seems to fit together.
  - b. It may only be in hindsight.
    - God allows us to see the front side.
    - #We say:
      - \*"Now I see."
      - \*"Now I get it."

## II. Is It Any Wonder That Paul Says We Don't Know How To Pray?

### A. Problem.

- 1. Not just words.
  - a. Finding the right words.
  - b. Finding the right words to speak out loud.
    - When we're in a group.
- 2. We don't know what to want.
  - a. We tend to pray:
    - God would keep:
      - #Our lamps.
      - #Our roosters.
      - #Our donkeys.
      - \*Safe.
    - God would give us:
      - #More lamps.
      - #More roosters.
      - #More donkeys.
  - b. Rather than helping us to believe:
    - All that God does is done well.

### B. So God Gives Us Two Helpers.

- 1. Jesus.
  - a. Who intercedes for us.
    - When we don't know how to pray.
    - When we don't know what to pray for.
    - When we pray for the wrong things.

- b. Who is the ultimate fulfillment of Joseph's words (Genesis 50:20).
    - Through his:
      - #Cross.
      - #Resurrection.
    - “You meant it for evil,”
    - “But God meant it for good.”
      - #“To bring to pass as it is today to save many people alive.”
2. Holy Spirit.
- a. Who moves us beyond the words.
    - Who converts:
      - #Our holy moans.
      - #Our holy groans.
      - \*Into prayer.
    - Remember last week's reading from Romans 8:12-25?
      - #Whole creation was groaning in labor?
        - \*Waiting to be delivered.
      - #We ourselves were groaning?
        - \*Waiting to be set free.
        - \*Hoping to be saved.
    - Holy Spirit converts our groans into sighs.
      - #Sighs too deep for words.
  - b. Who sighs:
    - With us.
    - Within us.
    - For us.
    - Over us.
      - #So that we might believe:
        - \*All that God does is done well.

Concl: In water and Word.  
 In bread and wine.  
 In life and death.  
 In suffering and salvation.  
 -All that God does is done well.