



Sermon Discussion Questions:

"Expect the Unexpected"
08/09/26

- How does Joseph's story change when we resist rushing past the family's favoritism, resentment, betrayal, and suffering to reach its eventual happy ending?
- What does Jacob's favoritism suggest about the ways wounded people can repeat the very patterns that once wounded them, and how might such patterns be interrupted?
- Reuben and Judah help preserve Joseph's life despite mixed or selfish motives. How can we recognize God's providence in imperfect actions without calling those motives or actions good?
- The sermon insists that God never calls evil good and that suffering does not receive the final word. How can a community hold honest lament and Christian hope together?
- What connections between Joseph and Jesus - betrayal, silver, abandonment, the pit, and unexpected deliverance - deepen our understanding of the cross and resurrection?
- What does it mean to say that resurrection is God's answer to the pit when faith does not remove present pain or guarantee an easy resolution?
- What small glimmers of grace or faithfulness might help people notice God's work without minimizing the darkness of their circumstances?
- Which practices can help a congregation expect God's faithfulness and remain attentive to the new horizon God may be creating beyond what can presently be seen?