

SPIRITUAL TASK—WHAT IS TRUE WISDOM? (Genesis 37)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story Joseph was the most loved son of Jacob because he was the son of Rachel. Jacob made a tunic of many colors for Joseph. Joseph also dreamed dreams of greatness and brought a bad report to his father about his brothers. Joseph's brothers were angry and jealous and hated Joseph. They plotted to kill Joseph but he was sold into slavery in Egypt.

Meaning Our first understanding of truth (Joseph's ten older brothers) is often harsh, judgmental, critical, backbiting, etc. because it is not ordered from charity but from self interest. Wisdom and knowledge are not the same thing. Wisdom (Joseph), or truth ordered by love and charity, is at first loathed and rejected (brother's hatred for Joseph) because it requires us to change our ways, points out our faults, and looks to idealism.

Task This week look for ideas or truths that are lurking in your mind which you use to justify selfish or destructive behavior. Acknowledge that perhaps they have served you in the past but are no longer needed or wanted. Write them down on a piece of paper, say good riddance, and burn them.