

# Where's Your Chair?

Genesis 47 13-31



Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.'  
The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced.  
Psalm 126:3-4

## **Praising:**

Come, blessed Lord, let every  
shore  
and answering island sing  
the praises of thy royal name,  
and own thee as their king.

## **Reading:**

Genesis 47:13-31  
The famine in Egypt

This is not making the moral case for the systematic enslavement of a nation. The intention is simply to demonstrate Joseph's wisdom and skill in overseeing a series of decisions that saved a people from starvation. First, the people spent all their money on grain. Then, in their desperation, they exchange all their food for cattle. Finally they come offering both themselves and their lands to Pharaoh. The result is that former landowners become tenants,

farming the land for Pharaoh and paying him one fifth of the produce as a tax, temple lands excluded. We are told about this arrangement not as a template or blueprint for how a country should be run, but as an illustration of Joseph's God-given and life-saving ingenuity. It is less about sharp practice or seizing a business opportunity and more about famine relief.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We hold before the Lord those parts of the world where there is mass hunger

- open the hearts of those in the fat countries to share with those in the lean
- melt the hearts of those bent on self-protection, greed and exploitation
- guide the hearts of those in authority that the most desperate may be provided for

Father: show me those around me who are in need; give me ways to come to their aid; and save me from any temptation to use my power to take advantage of their weakness. Amen

## **Doing:**

Friday, 12 February 2016