

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, John 12.

The other night, I was sitting with Garrett, my son-in-law, and he mentioned that it was only "two days and a wake-up," and then Donna and I would be on vacation. "Two days and a wake-up" is something my sister Sue would have said if she were still alive.

While I don't usually hear Garrett use this way of describing time, I think he was just reminding me of some of the special times I had with my sister. On a special day that she counted down to, she never included the special day because that was just the wake-up day.

While I am excited that tomorrow is our "wake-up day," and we travel down to Long Beach, where we will board our ship bound for Akaska on Sunday, I am also blessed with great memories of my family and some of the fun sayings we would use.

I know not all families remain as a "family unit." Divisive words are spoken, feelings are hurt, and the relationship is torn apart. Sometimes, schedules and distances cause families to break apart since there is no contact for months and even years.

Scripture is full of broken family relationships, but none more dysfunctional than Joseph and his brothers.

Joseph was a dreamer and shared that he would be greater than all in his family. While the dreams did come true, at the time, his words did not sit well with 10 of his brothers, who eventually sold him into slavery.

Joseph did become more powerful than any in his family, and his brothers did have to buy grain from him in Egypt, not realizing they were standing before Joseph, whom they had not seen for possibly 20 years.

Genesis 42:13 "But they replied, "Your servants were twelve brothers, the sons of one man, who lives in the land of Canaan. The youngest is now with our father, and one is no more." (NIV)

"And one is no more." I wonder who felt the sting of those words the most, Joseph or his brothers?

God was about to do a miracle and reunite a broken and dysfunctional family.

Jesus still restores.