



ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

August 24, 2023

The Mosaic

Volume 37, Issue 16

Opinion Piece from Baptist News Global

Victoria Robb Powers | August 21, 2023

“Joseph and Baylor: Deceiving Ourselves”

The story of Joseph in the book of Genesis is a common one many of us learned in church or through the popular musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. While it may be an ancient story, it bears relevance today.

As the story goes, Jacob, one of the patriarchs of Israel, had 12 sons, his favorite of whom was Joseph. One day, Jacob sent his publicly pronounced favorite son into an empty field to find his brothers, who clearly hated him. A field ripe with opportunity for revenge. It's not clear who's to blame for what happens next. Jacob and his ignorance? Joseph and his arrogance? Or the 11 other brothers and their thirst for vengeance?

It's not a clean-cut story. Surely, we could sympathize with all the different characters in the narrative because there is no real protagonist — no one who seems to stop the pattern of dysfunction and do the next right thing.

As Joseph makes his way toward his brothers, the Scripture says, “As he came near, they conspired against him.” Linguistically, the verb “conspire” is a relatively rare Hebrew word that is both reflexive and causative, which means the verb refers both to the subject and the object. So, a better English translation would be: “They conspired against themselves and their brother.” Or as one Hebrew scholar translates it: “They caused deceit to themselves to kill their brother.”

What happens next should sound familiar. After they sold their brother to a group of traders, they took his coat, slaughtered a goat and dipped the coat in its blood to fool their father into thinking his son had died.

There's great irony in this decision because their own father had used the same animal to deceive his father, Isaac. To steal a blessing that wasn't intended for him, Jacob had taken the skin of a goat and covered his hands and neck with it, and then deceived his father into thinking he was his brother, Esau.

Ancestral sin doesn't mean we inherit the judgment for the sin of our ancestors, but it does mean we repeat their sins until we choose to stop the cycle and do differently. By taking a page right out of Jacob's playbook, they followed the same scheme and used a goat to trick their father and betray their brother.

And yet, they are conspiring against themselves.

According to the story, these brothers violated a core value of ancient Near Eastern family life and biblical law which held brotherhood as a critical and crucial component of life. They let their envy, pride and ego deceive themselves into casting their brother away. They sold him for 20 shekels of silver, and in so doing they sold their souls.

How often is our conspiring against each other actually a conspiring against ourselves? How often are our misdeeds rooted in our own self-deceit? The story of Joseph and his brothers is a cautionary tale to all of us, a warning about what we become capable of the moment we deceive ourselves based on our own envy, pride and ego.

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*The next issues of The Mosaic are scheduled for September 7 & 21, 2023.
The deadline for submissions will be 5:00 p.m. Monday prior to the date of publication.*

Recently, the Department of Education granted Baylor University a religious exemption to the Title IX sexual harassment law. Simply put, Baylor asked the federal agency to dismiss sexual-harassment complaints by LGBTQ students, arguing their claims infringe on the school's religious beliefs.

As a Baylor graduate and a pastor, I am appalled at my alma mater.

After a broad backlash from people everywhere, Lori Fogelman, one of the university's assistant vice presidents, lamented that Baylor's religious exemption was being "mischaracterized" as a "broad-based exception to sexual harassment."

This is a modern example of what it means to deceive yourself. Because no matter how you try to spin it, this Title IX religious exemption *is* a broad-based exception to sexual harassment, and it's rooted in ego, pride and homophobia. Regardless of how anyone feels about LGBTQ people, they deserve to be protected in all spaces, including conservative-led, faith-based college institutions.

Baylor would be wise to heed the advice the story of Joseph and his brothers offers us. Any time we conspire against any person or group, we conspire against ourselves and our own morality. This misdeed is rooted in self-deception.

And when we cause deceit to ourselves, we violate our own core values, and we sell our siblings for a handful of silver or for an exemption that allows us to continue our bigotry. Whether we are casting our own flesh and blood into the hands of a slave owner or our own LGBTQ students into the hands of hate and violence, they are both rooted in self-deception.

Baylor has forgotten its core value as a Christian institution rooted in the radical love of Jesus Christ that demands that we love, honor, respect and protect every member of the human family, even those we might consider our own enemies.

When will we learn? Is the story of Joseph being sold for 20 shekels of silver not enough? Or is the story of Christ, our own brother, sold for 30?

When will we put an end to our own family history of dysfunction and stop conspiring against ourselves?

We must be careful because future generations are learning from us. Like Jacob and his sons show us, the skin we wear is the blood they bear. So, let's stop the cycle now, and do differently.

Pastor Victoria

Baptism Class

- **What:** Royal Baptism: The History, Theology, and Practice of Baptism
- **When:** Sundays at 9:45am (September 10, 17, and 24)
- **Where:** Senior Pastor's Office
- **Who:** For anyone interested in receiving baptism, join us for a three-week course led by our Senior Pastor. (If you have a child or youth interested in baptism, parents/guardians are encouraged to attend.) The study will focus on the history, theology, and practice of baptism. We will answer the following questions: What is baptism? What does it mean to be baptized? Am I ready for baptism?

RSVP: Please let us know if you plan to attend by emailing Rev. Victoria Robb Powers at vpowers@royallane.org

Studies for Wednesday Evening

Wednesday evening midweek program to expound on Sunday morning's sermon

Join Royal Lane member and Brite student, Jonathan Greer, and our Senior Pastor Victoria Robb Powers this fall on Wednesday nights. Following dinner, Jonathan will lead a conversation with Victoria about the previous Sunday morning's sermon. Learn about what inspired Victoria's message and what drew her to the scripture. Then join in conversation about what God is stirring in you and how you might live out the message in your own way. A resource list will be provided every week with anything mentioned in the sermon - poems, books, articles, etc.

Coming Events

Sunday	August 27 – Sunday
8:45 am	Children & Youth Committee — Vickrey Hall
9:30 am	August Adult Sunday School Sabbatical — Vickrey Hall
9:45 am	Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am	Youth SS Class — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
10:55 am	Morning Worship — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel Blessing of the Guide Dogs and Joining Sunday Godly Play – Following Time for Young Disciples — Godly Play Room
Wednesday	August 30
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building – Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall Greek Night : Villager's Salad (aka Greek Salad), Moussaka, Bread, Dessert
6:00 pm	Midweek Gathering & Study with Pastor Victoria and Jonathan Greer — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
7:00 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
Saturday	September 2
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom
Sunday	September 3 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:45 am	Adult Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am	Children's Christian Education — Christian Education Building
9:45 am	Youth SS Class — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
10:10 am	Non-Traditional Class — Room 212
10:55 am	Morning Worship, Holy Communion offered — Sanctuary & Royal Lane YouTube Channel Godly Play – Following Time for Young Disciples — Godly Play Room
12:15 pm	Missions Division — Vickrey Hall
12:15 pm	First Sunday Lunch for Children, Youth and Families
7:30 pm	Education Division — Zoom
Monday	September 3 Church Office Closed for Labor Day
Wednesday	September 6
3:30 pm	Holy Rollers — Christian Education Building – Room 201 (3:30 – 5:30 pm)
5:30 pm	Midweek Dinner — Vickrey Hall Menu: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Bread, Dessert:
6:00 pm	Midweek Gathering & Study with Pastor Victoria and Jonathan Greer — Vickrey Hall & Zoom
6:00 pm	Youth Study Hall — Christian Education Building, Room 201
6:30 pm	Youth Gathering — Youth Portable (Portable 1)
7:15 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal — Sanctuary
Saturday	September 9
9:00 am	Second Saturday Work Day (9:00 am – 12:00 pm)
2:00 pm	Questers Class — Zoom

The deadline for the order of service, the Midweek, and the Mosaic is Monday, 5:00 p.m. prior to publication.

"Like" RLBC on Facebook or "Follow" RLBC on Twitter

How to Connect

See the Weekly Mosaic, Weekend Update or Web Calendar for Links and details for In-Person, Livestream, Virtual or Zoom events — royallane.org/resources/events
Group hosts and leaders will provide links for events with no published link.

“Noah’s Pudding” – August 23

Thank you to Dallas Institute Dallas for serving a delicious meal to Wednesday Nighter’s.



Deacons of the Week

August 27

Margaret Darden

Sharon Vickrey

September 3

John Helms

Cookie Stokes

Midweek Program 6:00 p.m. Wednesday in Vickrey Hall

August 30 & September 6

Expounding on
Sunday's Sermon
with

Pastor Victoria &
Jonathan Greer

Join us for a Fellowship Meal
at 5:30 pm.

Announcements, Birthday Celebrations
and Prayer Concerns at 6:00 pm.



In the Box Gallery

August 27 thru September 29, 2023

Wreaths by Debi Wooten

Gallery open by appointment
10-4, weekdays, 10-5 Wednesdays

To change mail or email preferences for *The Mosaic*,
contact Barbara Merry, 214-361-2809, ext. 10 or
bmerry@royallane.org.

Scriptures of the Week

August 27

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm 124

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

September 3

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

July 2023 Financials

YTD Actual

Revenues* \$ 459,622

Expenses \$ 474,453

Surplus (Deficit) (\$ 14,831)

*Includes annual pledges paid up front in full.

Text "GIVE" to 214-609-1200

Follow the prompts to complete the process.
Standard text message rates may apply.

Donate online at royallane.org/give/

Giving menu includes:

General Fund

The Lowe Scholarship Fund

Columbarium

Happy Birthday!

August

Hannah Powers27

Graham King.....30

Tex Quesada.....30

Anna Lou Brown.....31

Thad Clark-Soles31

Matthew Maddox31

Kathy Mizell31

September

Claudia Nuss1

Jennifer Hammett.....2

Dot Johnson.....3

Corrie Stokes.....3

Quinn Keller.....4

Harry Wooten.....5



Royal Lane Baptist Church

6707 Royal Lane

Dallas, Texas 75230-4145

ROYAL LANE BAPTIST CHURCH

Diverse People United in Christ

The Mosaic is published twice a month

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday Midweek: 6:15 pm

Christian Education: Saturday & Sunday

Sunday Worship: 10:55 am

Royal Lane Baptist Church

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Ben Chamero, Livestream Technician

David Doom, Ministries Assistant

Brandon Green, Sound Technician

Beth Johnson, Minister to Children,

Youth & Families

Barbara Merry, Ministries Assistant

Ellen Miers, Housekeeping

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor

Blake Vickrey, Sound Technician

David Weigle, Organist

Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music & Worship