

A devotion given by Brother Robert Ching at the Wed night prayer meeting on June 2, 2018

## “Men meant evil, but God meant good”

*<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.*

**Genesis 50:19-21 NIV**



After Jacob died, his brothers were afraid that Joseph would revenge for their wrong doing to sell him to Egypt as a slave. But Joseph uttered this profound statement “As for you, meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.” This verse illustrates the sovereignty of God in directing events of this world. Men meant evil for His people, but God meant good for His people.

There are many instances in the Bible testifying the validity of this verse. Moses was brandished to the wilderness for killing an Egyptian. That was evil done by his very own brother. But God meant good in his solitude. Towards the end of his 40th year in the wilderness, God appeared to him in the burning bush and charged Moses to lead the people out of Egypt.

In Acts 16:22-34, when Paul and Silas were jailed in Philippi, an earthquake broke out. The jailer and his family were saved and baptized. In Philippians 1:12-14, Paul’s chains were advantageous to advance the gospel. “Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.”



On May 23 on our way to Thessaloniki Roma village, Vula’s car had a flat tire and we reluctantly had to cancel our evening program with the children. It was a great disappointment for us and for the children for sure. But praise to God, our flat happened at the toll booth, when cars had to slow down; otherwise it would be rather dangerous for a car full of seniors, one was 86 years old.

Then we cruised through every little town hoping to find a tire shop without success. Our trip to Skopje next day was at risk. But we did not cancel the trip, but instead trusted God that He would prepare a solution next day. Praise God, Vula found a tire shop next morning which would ship a pair of new tires from Thessaloniki and had the car ready by 2 pm so we could still arrive Skopje before night fell.

The flat at the toll booth was bad. But the consequence could be a lot worse if we had the flat along the freeway to Skopje where we did not know the language and customs. That flat meant

evil, but God meant good. God prepared a safe passage for us. Now we had two reliable tires for our long trips to Skopje and Bulgaria.

Understandably, most of prayer needs center around life difficulties and misfortunate but we trust that in the end, God meant good for us.