

(12-28-25) 14. JACOB'S FUNERAL - JOSEPH'S FORGIVENESS (Gen. 49:29-33, Gen 50)

Intro; As we've covered the story of Joseph, we've seen him favored by his father, hated by his brothers, and sold into Egypt as a slave by them, because of their jealousy.

- * From there Joseph worked as a slave for 10 years, spent 3 years in prison and then rose to be the prime minister of Egypt because God enabled him to interpret Pharaoh's dream of a massive 7-year famine that was soon to come.
- * Once the famine arrived it wasn't long before his brothers from Canaan showed up to buy food, but they didn't recognize their little brother--- ,
--- And Joseph spent several months leading them through a series of tests that finally brought them to repent of their sin.
- * He then had them bring his father and the whole family to live and be cared for in Egypt.
- * We left off in Gen. 48, where we saw--- Jacob formally bestow the family's birthright blessing on Joseph and his 2 sons;
- * In Ch. 49- Jacob gathered all his sons to pronounce a personal blessing on each of them, which was an ancient tradition, where a father reviewed his son's lives, to encourage them for their good points, and challenge them to work on their bad points. (We will skip)
- * Today we explore the 3 final scenes in Jacob and Joseph's lives.

I. JACOB'S FAITHFUL EXIT FROM THIS LIFE. (49:29- 50:14)

II. THE BROTHER'S FEAR AND JOSEPH'S FORGIVENESS. (50: 15-21)

III. THE PASSING OF JOSEPH -- THE BROTHER'S FRIEND. (50: 22-26)

I. JACOB'S FAITHFUL EXIT FROM THIS LIFE. (49:29- 50:14) This has 3 parts

A. JACOB INSTRUCTED HIS SONS ABOUT HIS DEATH. (29-33- read)

- * Earlier, Jacob made Joseph promise to bury him in Canaan, the families God-given land.
- * Now, in his final hours, he identified the specific place for them to bury him.
- * There are 4 reasons he desired to be buried there.

1. Jacob was 147, and he had only lived 17 years in Egypt, so It was natural for him to want to be buried- **where he lived most of his life.**

2. Jacob wanted to be placed with those he loved. He lived there 15 years with Abraham, and 80 years with his father Isaac, and his 1st wife Leah was buried there, as well.

3. Jacob wanted to further God's plan, by endearing the family to Canaan.

- In all Jacob's trials, he had learned and grown to understand God's purpose for his family.
- He knew if he were buried in Egypt, it might be harder for the family to leave there when God led them out; So he wanted his burial to endear them to God's land.
- And notice- while Jacob started his life, a lying cheater, selfishly concerned with his own desires, he finished his life, focused on God's plan for his family.

4. Jacob was focused on eternity with his godly ancestors.

- Here, he said his death was-- "being gathered to his people".
- This is the ultimate promise and joy for God's children, that when this life is over, we will be with the Lord, and with all those in Christ, who have gone on before us.

Sum- After instructing his sons, Jacob laid down in complete peace, and the Lord took him home.

B. JACOB WAS PREPARED FOR BURIAL. (50:1-6- read)

- * When Jacob passed, Joseph wept over him as he did when reuniting with him years earlier.
- * Then he had his own physicians prepare him for burial, not Egypt's morticians (pagan rituals)
- * Joseph would not allow paganism to taint the death and burial of his godly father.

- * While Jacob was being prepared, the Egyptians mourned 70 days,
which was the same length of time they mourned for a Pharaoh who died.
- * This showed enormous respect for Jacob because he was Joseph's father,
and great respect for Joseph, for the extreme blessing he had been to Egypt---
 - And for the same reason, Pharaoh granted Joseph's request to bury his father in Canaan.

C. PHARAOH HONORED JACOB WITH A GREAT PROCESSION. (7-11- read)

- * Notice 2 significant things.

1. Pharaoh ordered a large company to go 200 miles to Canaan, for the burial. (7-9)

- Pharaoh sent ALL his officials and government leaders, Jacob's whole family,
and all the needed military protection.

2. On arrival, they all mourned as they would for a prominent Egyptian. (10-11)

- In time, the Canaanites would learn that this was Jacob they were burying, but they
named the place- Abel Mizraim. This phrase means "The mourning of the Egyptians".
- This was key because in the future, this would remind the Canaanites that this was the land
God promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and that the powerful Egyptians
had authorized Jacob's possession of this land.

- Vs. 12-14- simply records that the sons honored their father's request for his burial,
-- **and this event shows us--** the deep respect that came from this powerful pagan king,
and his whole Empire, because of Joseph's godly faithful life. (legacy)

II. THE BROTHER'S FEAR AND JOSEPH'S FORGIVENESS. (15-21)

- * Now that Jacob is gone, and Joseph is in charge of the family, Joseph learned there was still a lingering problem between him and his brothers. Note 3 points.

A. THE BROTHERS FEARED JOSEPH'S REVENGE. (15- read)

- * 17 years ago, the brothers repented of their sin against Joseph, and Joseph forgave and loved them; But now dad is gone, and they feared Joseph might retaliate. **3 reasons.**

1. Joseph's love and forgiveness toward them wasn't normal.

- They lived decades in a hostile world, and knew 'Pay-back' was just the world's way.
- So how could Joseph just forgive them and let them go, after they treated him so terribly?

2. They thought Joseph's kindness may have been phony, for the sake of his father.

- Joseph loved Jacob, and maybe he was just playing along and waiting for Jacob to die before he paid them back, so he wouldn't break Jacob's heart. (caused fear)

3. Earlier in their lives, these brothers had vengeful hearts.

- At Shechem, instead of demanding justice on the 1 offender of their sister Dinah, they killed every adult male, sacked the city, and took all the woman and children.
- And when they felt abused by Joseph's tattling about their sinfulness, and his dreams of them bowing down to him, they took vengeance on him by selling him into slavery.
- And now, even though they're changed men, their past made them think back of what they would normally have done, had they been in Joseph's sandals.

@@ The response of these brothers teach us 2 lessons.

- a. We tend to think others have the same motives and attitudes we struggle with, rather than choosing to love people, and give them the benefit of the doubt.
- b. This shows this story is not only about giving forgiveness, but accepting it, as well.
 - These brothers had a hard time accepting Joseph's forgiveness, and often believers struggle to accept God's forgiveness when we fail, because we can't understand how God can be so merciful, gracious and patient with our failures.

- But the bible is full of the truth of God's complete forgiveness for those who repent.
- Don't doubt God's Word, trust his forgiveness. (**Psalm 103: 8-14**)

3a

B. THE BROTHERS OFFERED 2 SOLUTIONS. (16-18)

Read v16-17- 1st- They played on Joseph's love for Jacob by sending a message that Jacob supposedly gave them, telling Joseph to forgive them.

- Actually, this sounds suspiciously like a story, but notice- in love, Joseph gave them the benefit of the doubt, and never questioned their statement.
- Instead, **Joseph wept**, probably grieved that they still suffered from guilt, and since Joseph knew what emotional pain was, their pain became his pain. (empathy)
- Also, Joseph was probably sorry he didn't do more to reassure them of his love.

Read v18- 2nd- Because of Joseph's authority, it seems they feared he might kill them, so they offered themselves as slaves, for what they had done---

- hoping this would appease Joseph's wrath, and maybe lift him up with pride to think how cool it would be to have his older brothers as his slaves. (payback)

C. JOSEPH REFUSED THEIR SUGGESTIONS - AND RENEWS HIS FORGIVENESS. (19-21-read) He said 3 things to calm them.

1. In v19- Joseph showed that his authority was submitted to God.

- His brothers thought Joseph would use his Egyptian position to destroy them.
- Joseph showed them that his first concern was his position before God, that obligated him to obey and submit his life to the Lord.
- He understood what was not yet written in the law, in Leviticus and Deuteronomy, that-- "vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord".
- His righteous heart knew he had no right to abuse his earthly authority, and take God's place, and punish them with a vengeful heart.

This Of course, is one of the main lessons we've learned from Joseph's life.

Leave your hurts with God, it's His job to decide what happens to our offenders, and He will decide, and carry those things out, perfectly, in His time, and His way.

- And hopefully they will be saved and receive the same forgiving mercy we have.

2. In v20- Joseph admitted his brother's evil purpose, and God's perfect purpose.

- Earlier, when they repented and Joseph revealed himself, he never pridefully shamed or derided his brothers for how terrible their sin was against him.
- He covered their sin by saying- "don't be distressed or angry with yourselves".
Then from that day on, Joseph treated them with great blessing.
- So now to make things perfectly clear to them, he revealed that he understood -- "you intended to harm me", but he reassured them-- "God intended it for good".
- When Joseph was sold as a slave, early in that ordeal, he must have settled his heart with the truth that God was in control, and could even use their sin to fit His purposes.
- And when he interpreted Pharaoh's dream of the famine, and was given great leadership, he could see God using his brother's sin to bring His perfect plan to pass.
- **This is the 2nd main lesson** we learn from Joseph, trust God that He is in control.

3. In v21- Joseph promised to provide their future needs.

- Joseph gave them 2 promises, a spiritual one, and a physical one.
- In v19 and 21- He said-- "Don't be afraid". This is God's command for every child of God.
- Our sin has been forgiven, we don't need to fear God's vengeance any longer.
- Then Joseph gave them a physical promise-- "I will provide for you and your children"
- Then he encouraged them with more words of kindness, as he had all along.

Sum- What his brothers thought was going to be their death, or at least separation from their families, again, turned out to be a full renewed pardon, with no consequences to come.

- **This is salvation in Christ.** The **worst news** in the world is-
we are guilty unacceptable sinners who have offended a holy God,
but greatest news is-- "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,
that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor 21)
Our sin is "Cast into the depths of the sea", "put as far as east is from west"
and- "God remembers it no more".

III. THE PASSING OF JOSEPH -- THE BROTHER'S FRIEND. (22-26)

* Genesis finishes with Joseph going home to be with the Lord. **Note 2 important things.**

A. JOSEPH HAD A FULL LIFE AND A BLESSED FAMILY. (22-23- read)

- * Joseph was 60ish when Jacob died, and lived to be 110 years old, which meant he got to see his grandchildren, great grands, and even great, great grands- through Ephraim.
- * Because of God's plan, Joseph spent his early years alone, but God rewarded him for his faithfulness by giving him a wonderful family to bring him joy.

B. JOSEPH LEFT INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIS BROTHERS. (24-26- read)

- * 10 of his 11 brothers were older than he, so he passed on before many of them.
- * But as his time drew close, he made them promise that his remains would be taken to Canaan to be buried, when God finally led the family out of Egypt, However long that might be. (25b-26)
- * The brothers honored that request and had his remains-- "placed in a coffin in Egypt", which **wasn't** normal for a rich man like Joseph. (put in a fancy permanent tomb). (A coffin was temporary, and was stored above ground, to be moved later.)
- * In the future, Moses and Joshua honored this request. (Ex. 13:19, Josh 24:32)
God saw to it, centuries later, that God's men, took care of God's man.
- * **Why did Joseph demand he be buried in Canaan? 2 reasons**

1. Like his father Jacob, he wanted to promote God's promise.

- Q- He lived 90 years in Egypt, but he was focused on God's land and God's family and their need to return to Canaan and inhabit it for God, and stand as a testimony to a pagan world, of what the true God is like and what He requires.
- Both in his life and death, Joseph wanted to teach the family that Egypt was not their home.
 - And note that absolutely nothing is said about his earthly royal position or his riches.
 - They didn't matter to him at all---- He was focused on the kingdom of God.

2. This would show Pharaoh and Egypt, that this man who saved Egypt by the power and leadership of his God, was focused on God's world, not theirs.

(Both Jacob and Joseph in their deaths, put God's purpose and plan first)

CONCLUSION- HOW IS JOSEPH AN EXAMPLE TO US?

1. JOSEPH FOLLOWED GOD IN A PAGAN SOCIETY.

- * He was surrounded by paganism as soon as he hit Egypt, and after being promoted, he lived in great luxury in the same pagan environment, yet he followed God faithfully. How?
- * **EYES.** Daily, his physical eyes were surrounded by the world and its sin, but the eyes of his heart were always on what COULDN'T be seen. **(2 Cor 4:16-18)**

2. JOSEPH FACED HIS TRIALS FAITHFULLY.

- * He faced terrible wrongs, but responded righteously every time. He never held a grudge or retaliated against Potiphar's wife for lying, or Potiphar for failing to get to the truth.
- * He never retaliated on the cup bearer, who completely forgot about him for 2 years.
- * And when his brothers showed up, rather than take all-out revenge on them, he led them through a series of tests to humble them before God--
 - And finally revealed himself, assured them of his love and forgiveness, and blessed them abundantly, and pointed them to God's great plan for the family's future.
 - And he never held a grudge against his own father for failing to raise godly honest boys.
- * Joseph also handled his authority with complete integrity, never offended or overstepped his boundaries with Pharaoh, and was used of God to save countless people from starving.

Sum- In all of it, he knew God was in complete control of every detail and every person involved, and he left the details to God, and served God with a willing heart in what he could do.

Joseph knew- Q- The will of God will never take me where the grace of God will not protect me.

3. JOSEPH FULFILLED HIS LEGACY.

- * In our relationships, your legacy is the testimony and example you leave behind for others to follow. It can be good or bad, but we all leave a legacy behind for others.
- * As far as we know, everything Joseph lived out in his life was a good example and a challenge to anyone who knew him, later remembered him, or ever heard about him, of what God requires, what's important in life, and how we are to treat God and others.
- * **And throughout his story**, Joseph often was a good picture of the coming person of Christ, which is our mandate every day that we live, **(Christians- little Christs)**