

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH – SERMON 25

GOD WILL SURELY VISIT YOU

Genesis 50:22-26

INTRODUCTION

- Joseph's death concludes the book of Genesis
- Genesis begins with creation in Eden and ends with a coffin in Egypt.
- It begins with glory and ends with the grave. In between is the entrance of sin into the world, and the curse of death that resulted.
- The Old Testament begins with creation, and ends with a curse.
- But at the very end of the Bible, we are told that there will be no more curse, no more death, no more tears
- While we remain in these bodies of flesh, they are still subject to death, and we will still have to deal with coffins
- A person's influence does not end with their death
- Often an individual's influence in the world can be *greater* after their death than before.
- It is said of Abel, "*he being dead yet speaketh.*" (Hebrews 11:4)
- When we die, our souls depart, but we leave the bones of our legacy behind.

- Your bones can have a positive impact (2 Kings 13:20-21), or a negative (2 Kings 23:16)

Consider three ways that Joseph left a godly legacy:

I. HIS LIFE TESTIFIED OF PERSEVERING GRACE (22-23)

A. Genuine faith perseveres

1. Joseph remained steadfast and faithful to God to the end
2. God always completes the work He begins (Philippians 1:6)
3. Those who fall away never possessed true faith (1 John 2:19)

B. The latter years can be the downfall for many

1. Drifting (Hebrews 2:1-3)
2. Decline (cf. Genesis 9:20-21; Numbers 20:11)
3. Departure (Hebrews 3:12; 2 Peter 3:17)
4. There are many examples in Scripture
 - a. Solomon (1 Kings 11:4)
 - b. Hezekiah (2 Kings 20)
 - c. Demas (2 Timothy 4:10)
 - d. Hymenaeus and Alexander (1 Timothy 1:19-20)

C. We need to finish well

1. The Christian life is likened to a race that must be run (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
2. Weights and sins must be laid aside (Hebrews 12:1-2)

II. HE LEFT TRUSTING THE PROMISES OF GOD (24-25)

A. He gave commandment concerning his bones

1. This is the one aspect of his life that is recorded in Hebrews 11 (Hebrews 11:22)
2. He knew of the hardship that would come to his descendants, as well as God's deliverance from it (cf. Genesis 15:13-14)
3. Joseph's dying words echo his father's (Genesis 48:21)
4. One of the most important lessons a parent can teach their children is to die well
5. God gives dying grace to his people (Hebrews 4:16)

B. Faith in God is not simply believing God *can* but God *will*

C. True faith results in action

D. Faith begets faith

1. Joseph desired those who came after to have the same faith in God he had
2. We must hold to God's promises that have been passed down to us even in spite of affliction and persecution

III. HIS LEGACY TOUCHED PERPETUAL GENERATIONS (26)

A. A godly legacy can give hope

1. God did visit them and brought them out of Egypt (Exodus 13:19)
2. Some took their eyes off the promise and perished in the wilderness (Numbers 13:31-33)
3. Centuries later, the promise was fulfilled (Joshua 24:32)

B. What we do today determines our future legacy

1. Your legacy will still be speaking long after you die: what will it be saying?

CONCLUSION

1. Joseph's life was a life of faith in God's providence, even through the most bitter trials
2. His was a life of purity in the face of strong temptations
3. His was a life that forgave his cruel enemies
4. His was a life of persevering faith until the day of his death