

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

STUDY NUMBER TWELVE – GENESIS 50:1-26

INTRODUCTION:

Well we have selected for our series of studies probably one of the greatest men in Scripture. I have loved studying him.

Joseph firstborn to Rachel after many years of delay in the family and many children born. Born into a family of bitterness and resentment. Born into a family where hatred was dominant and the brothers sold him into Egypt.

We have watched God's providential circumstances work in his life through Potiphar's house, through the prison, and into Pharaoh's palace. He has been the star of the family and then he has made provision for them during the 5 years that remain in the famine and then for 12 years longer.

In our last study we saw Jacob, maybe two studies ago, bless Ephraim and Manasseh and in our study this morning we saw the Patriarchal Benediction basically. He was sharing with them what was going to be happening to the 12 sons who were going to become the 12 tribes of the nation Israel.

He drew his feet up into the bed and then he was gathered unto his people.

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I thought of 2 Timothy 4.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.

Needless to say, this is a sad time. It is hard to end a series of studies biographically when the star of your story dies. We have a funeral in the front of the passage and a funeral in the back of the passage for this last study. How can you smile and be enthusiastic and happy about a funeral in the front and a funeral in the back?

There are some great lessons though in Genesis chapter 50 and we must spend some time discussing it.

Joseph is 56 years of age as the scene of the chapter opens.

Robert Foster in his challenge letter to businessmen gave this fitting tribute I read the other day when I got my letter from him to Jacob.

Our hero from Haran was almost continually in the crucible, whether through his faults or those of others. Here, I want you to meet the master schemer, the manipulator of men and events.

At birth, Jacob grabbed his twin brother by the heel, and then spent the rest of his life trying to trip anybody who hindered his plans. This man that God loved was forever straining, struggling, striving, sinning, stumbling, but yet always rising

on the stepping stones of his dead self to higher things.

Jacob was a man of indomitable purpose, and so in the hour of extremity he would scheme first and pray later.

With Jacob struggling to hold on to his own way, his own plans, his own will, God touched Jacob just on that spot where self was entrenched; and it wasn't until his pride went that his Jacob-nature weakened.

We win when we yield. When I am weak, then am I strong. Don't settle for less than God's very best. Jacob burned his bridges behind him. God touched the socket of his hip, now things really began to happen in this man's life.

When we come to the subject of physical death, especially among your family members you think of the three P's:

1. The first is the **PAIN** of the experience.
2. And then the second one is the **PREPARATION** of our own souls for our eternal destiny.
3. And then we have to examine our **PRIORITIES** again that will line up with that ultimate goal and objective.

It was John Sterner who said:

That still, small voice of guilt ought not be “therapized” away. We are guilty because we have been sinful. “What do you do with the one talent I gave you?” asks your Master. “Well,...” we say, “I had a real good time.”

You know that is not going really stand up very much when we take that time to step into His presence.

Judith Viorst said:

There are other, less frenetic mid-life reactions which reflect the chaos and anguish of this stage, when, although we may be at our prime, we know that we’re in the grip of time, that “our ground time here,” as a poet and many airline hostesses warn us, “will be brief.” Thus we may -- many do -- become severely depressed. Or embittered -- “is this all there really is?” Or achingly disappointed at having failed to meet our ideals, to achieve our goals. Or bored and restless -- “so now what?” -- if we’ve achieved them. Or self-destructive -- drinking, pill-popping, driving too fast or directly attempting suicide. Or envious of the young even our own young flourishing sexual sons and daughters. Or guilt-stricken at the bad we have done and the good we have left undone.

The apex of being a success person is a person who can finish the course like Jacob.

Let's look at the verses together.

v. 1 Joseph threw himself upon his father and wept over him and kissed him.

You remember at the end of the study the old dad drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last. I am sure they stood there stunned in silence. First, each one of them are trying to think of the meaning of what they have heard in the prophecies that have been given to them by their dad. And as they stood there Joseph happens to be the first one to express compassion and weeping and pain for his father. He falls upon his face and he begins to weep and to kiss him.

Why would Joseph be the one who would immediately express these emotions? I think because Joseph is losing three things with the death.

1. He is losing his father.
2. He is losing his guide.
3. He is losing his best friend.

You know there has been nobody like Jacob in his life. Jacob has been his number one fan club. And so now Jacob is gone. He is no more among the land of the living.

One writer said:

Millions of lips have been chilled by kissing the marbled brow of death.

And now the mantle drops upon his shoulders. It is his responsibility now to care for the family and to take the place of leadership.

I got to thinking. In facing death Joseph probably had three things. You know the amazing thing about death is that when it takes place death wipes out all the negative. Have you noticed that? I have gone to a lot of funerals of people. And I honestly have got to admit to you that after the ceremony was over I have got to go up and look in the box and see if it was the same man that knew in life. You know it is an amazing thing. It is almost like it is a computer tape erase of anything that was bad or negative. It is not proper in a funeral to say anything negative or derogatory or bad about someone who died. Did you ever notice that? Have you ever gone to a funeral and heard anyone say, "Boy he was a scoundrel." What do you do in that kind of a situation? You preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and you present Christ in the hopes that people will respond to Him.

You see in life you do not do those things, you just kind of wipe it out and you go on from there and hope that you can do the best.

I think Joseph in thinking about Jacob is thinking about three things.

- 1. He is thinking about the COAT that he got when he was a young man because his dad loved him.**
- 2. And then number two he is thinking about the joy of his dad COMING when he was 22 years separated when he saw him at 39.**
- 3. And then I think now he is thinking about CARING for him the last 17 years.**

God has really been good to him. God has really allowed him the privilege of telling his dad again, “I love you and I care about you.” And now these last 17 years of caring for him are a blessing to him as he thinks of that.

v. 2 Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. So the physicians embalmed him,

Now naturally Joseph has access to all the professional people in the course of his duties in the land so he turns his father over to them to prepare for their burial in the land of Canaan.

v. 3 taking a full forty days, for that was the time required for embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

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Now you have seen mummies and you have seen the fact that they can exist in that dry climate in Egypt for great long periods of time. The embalming process was a very sophisticated process of literally pickling the corpse. They took out all the insides and the viscera and then they carefully took the shell that was left and preserved it and it took 40 days for that preservation process along with all of the wrapping of the yards and yards of gauze that were involved then the body as prepared. And then they mourned for him for 70 days after that.

Can you imagine having the flag at half-mast for 70 days? You know if they were to mourn the loss of a Pharaoh or a leader it was 72 days. So they were 2 days short of mourning for him out of respect to Joseph and out of the impact the man made during the 17 years he lived in the land. Just 2 days short of it. So this is actually true. Forty days for the embalming process. Seventy days for the mourning.

v. 4 When the days of mourning had passed, Joseph said to Pharaoh's court, "If I have found favor in your eyes, speak to Pharaoh for me. Tell him,

v. 5 "My father made me swear an oath and said, "I am about to die; bury me in the tomb I dug for myself in the land of Canaan." Now let me go up and bury my father; then I will return."

Why does Joseph feel that it is necessary to send somebody in there to represent him?

Well when they were mourning they did not shave, they did not shower, they did not change their clothes, or nothing. Everything just came to a complete standstill. And after 70 plus 40 days you know he probably wrecks a good bit and he would not want to be seen in public in the process of mourning. And so he sends his delegate to Pharaoh and asks for the privilege now of taking the old man's body back up to Hebron because he had made that commitment to him twice.

Remember in Genesis 48 when the two boys were there dad asks them. And then the last thing this morning just before he pulled his feet into bed was “take me up home and bury me next to Leah.”

v. 6 Pharaoh said, “Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear to do.”

v. 7 So Joseph went up to bury his father. All Pharaoh's officials accompanied him -- the dignitaries of his court and all the dignitaries of Egypt --

v. 8 besides all the members of Joseph's household and his brothers and those belonging to his father's household. Only their children and their flocks and herds were left in Goshen.

Now that is quite a funeral procession. I mean you remember back in the 60's when John F. Kennedy died the incredible procession and everything that was involved and the missing rider and the huge delegation that took the trip.

Well here we have something comparable to that. This is a 250-mile trip from where they are to get up to Hebron for this and I would imagine Jacob probably would have turned over in his grave if he had known the elaborate, elaborate memory over his death and the procession that took place in view of his demise.

v. 9 Chariots and horsemen also went up with him. It was a very large company.

v. 10 When they reached the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan, they lamented loudly and bitterly; and there Joseph observed a seven-day period of mourning for his father.

You say aren't you running it in the ground a little bit? Seventy days in Egypt. No. When you change from one culture to the other you follow the pattern of the culture. He is of Hebrew decent. And the Hebrew mourning period is 7 days. Now he is in Canaan so he is following the prescribed pattern for the land of Canaan in observing the 7-day mourning period for his father as the Hebrew custom would allow.

v. 11 When the Canaanites who lived there saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "The Egyptians are holding a solemn ceremony of mourning." That is why that place near the Jordan is called Abel Mizraim.

Now they have had a time of mourning. You see they do not know who this is.

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They have been gone now for 17 years from Hebron. Isn't that a sobering thought? When you are gone just a few years nobody even remembers that you were there. That is amazing to me. You know we think that we are so indispensable and we are so incredible.

Probably the greatest, humbling experience in the world was suggested by an old monk to a young man he says, "You want to know how much you are missed when you leave? Stick your hand in a bucket of water and stir it around all you want and then pull it out and the hole that is left is how much you will be missed." Nothing. They just forget.

It has been 17 years and they do not even know who these people are but they are coming back up here to this old cemetery to bury this individual.

v. 12 So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them:

And can I say to you one of the greatest things you can do for a person who has died is to fulfill their final wishes.

It has been a joy sometimes to see a funeral already prepared by some people who have died.

v. 13 They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham had bought as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite, along with the field.

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Who is buried there? You can still go to that site today in Hebron. They have Abraham, Sarah there. You see you have the lineage of the Abrahamic covenant lying there. You have Abraham and Sarah. You have Isaac and Rebekah. And you have Jacob and not Rachel. You have Leah. She gave birth to Judah. And the six of them carry the line and then Judah becomes the tribe and it is out of the tribe that Jesus Christ is going to come. But the patriarchal unconditional covenant given to Abraham is seen in these six individuals. God's sovereign choice. Rachel may have had him while she was living but Leah got him when she died. He was buried next to her.

v. 14 After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, together with his brothers and all the others who had gone with him to bury his father.

Do you think that this is a tough time for Joseph emotionally by the fact that this was the first time that he was back in the land in some forty years? You know 39 years ago he left here. This is home to him. Do you think the other 11 brothers probably had a tough time leaving and going back to Egypt because Hebron had been there home where they grew up? You know it was emotional times there. And isn't it neat that all 12 of them accept the fact that it is God's purpose for them to be in a land that is not theirs for 430 years and in God's time He will bring them all back up to the land. And His promise will be fulfilled when the land becomes theirs.

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They are now content as brothers to return to Egypt for the present. But I think while they are driving out of town they are saying baby we'll be back because that is the one thing that makes Joseph famous before he dies is take my bones when y'all leave. You know I know you are going back. And to Joseph this is got to be a very difficult time as he finally gets to be back in the land after some 40 years of not being there.

Now watch what happens because there is a great lesson coming in this study.

Verse 15.

v. 15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"

Now you can read that and you can think, "Hey that is really dumb." But you know that is not dumb. Actually what happened and the reason that Jacob left home after he stole the blessing from Esau was that Rebekah heard that Esau was only going to wait until old dad Isaac died and then it was going to be Katy bar the door for Jacob he was going to get it. Esau was going to kill him out of hatred. And when Rebekah heard that and knew that he would make that threat good when Isaac died she sent him to Uncle Laban's house and saved his life. And it would be common etiquette of the day. But when the morning is over and dad is dead then it is time to go bam!

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And so the boys now are coming up with a statement that you never want to make if you want to stay out of anxiety and you want to be in peace.

It is the little statement WHAT IF. If you can get that out of your vocabulary and quit worrying and becoming anxious by all of the WHAT IF's you will be a totally different person. WHAT IF – the mind can conjure up all kinds of circumstances and situations. I mean we can sit there in the office and we say, “What if a kid falls off of the balcony? What if a kid drowns in the pool? What if a kid falls off a horse? What if a jeep runs over the bank? What if, what if, what if someone drowns in the river? See what you would have missed if we would have believed all our WHAT IF's. You just got to pack it and mail it and trust the Lord that He is going to see us through those circumstances in victory because He is the one that is at work.

Now it is interesting to note the brothers do accept the full responsibility for what they have done in the past as far as Joseph is concerned. And what they are saying is what if he now holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did him?

Do you mean to tell me that you could be sitting here in this room right now and believe that you have done the WHAT IF's so therefore God cannot forgive you and He has still got a grudge against you for your big WHAT IF?

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You mean you can really look me straight in the face and say that the blood of Christ applies to everything in this room except for that one thing that you did? And you can conjure up all kinds of things that you did. All of us can. And say, “Well the blood of Jesus Christ was totally adequate for all of that but this. And I am just beyond hope because of this one thing that I have done. The Lord is still holding a grudge against me for that one thing.” Do you think that would hurt the heart of the Lord just a little bit? Oh you had better believe it. You cannot find anything in the Bible where there is a picture of God holding a grudge against someone and not making total provision no matter what it is. That is because He loves you unconditionally.

And so does Joseph. Watch this.

v. 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died:

Do you know what I think this is? I think these boys are acting just like you did in grade school. When you wanted to skip school you wrote your own excuse and then you signed your parents’ handwriting to it. And you got a bad report card and you did not want them to see it and so you forged their name you know and then turned it back in like – you never did that?

It could be and I have been willing to accept this that maybe in the final days the boys had some private discussions with their dad while Joseph was down in Memphis serving during those 17 years there. They are saying, “Dad what if he does this when he dies?” Maybe they could have talked with that kind of anxiety inside. And no matter what Jacob would say to them about the genuine love that he had for them they still could not believe it. And perhaps it did come out of that. But knowing what Jacob has been up to and knowing what some of these boys have been up to on occasion and some of the stories they have told I would not put it pass them to write a pretty good note here.

v. 17 ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

Oh boy. You know if there is one problem with us in the human race it is the slowness of our ability to accept forgiveness. Not only of ourselves but forgiveness from the Lord for what He has done. “Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” Here they are still begging for a forgiveness that is already theirs as far as Joseph is concerned he told them 17 years ago on that very first meeting “Don’t be grieved that you sold me. God sent me. It was His purpose to save everybody alive.

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And I am free to from bitterness and resentment. I love you and it is my great joy to minister.”

Why is Joseph weeping? He is weeping over their unbelief and their inability to trust him.

All right now you apply that to the Lord Jesus. Are you making tears run down His cheeks tonight because you cannot believe that God can forgive you? That it is too late for you? You have done too much? You have gone too far? You have reached beyond the realm of His exceeding great grace. Therefore you have an excuse to not respond today. Oh come on. He wants you to receive Him and be totally free, joyful, reconciled. So oftentimes we preach the cross of Jesus Christ and His ability to forgive but we deny the continuity of His grace and the fact that we have eternal salvation.

John 10:28,29

I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish. Neither shall any man take them out of my hand. My Father which gave them to me is greater than all, and no man is able to take them out of my Father's hand.

And then Leslie Flynn says this in his book *Joseph: God's Man in Egypt*:

How like people who confess their sins but then continue to drag them out, pull them up, spread them out, weep over them afresh, somehow forgetting that

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God has declared them forgiven. When Christ pardons our sins, He buries them. Let's leave them buried, and do like our Lord -- remember them no more.

Joseph knew how bad their sin had been, and forgave them fully. So Christ knows the rottenness of our past, and freely forgives.

v. 18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

Well we get one finally chance to see the fulfillment of the dreams. It is now reality again. They are throwing themselves on the floor, begging for a forgiveness that they had 17 years ago. Wanting it once again.

v. 19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?"

God is the great avenger. I am leaving the responsibility to Him. I am not going to interfere. Am I in the position to take vengeance into my own hands?

v. 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Can't you brothers see God involved in all of this? Can't you recognize it? Haven't I preached it? Haven't I demonstrated it over these last 17 years and I told you when I first saw you that that was the case.

Joseph is faithful and consistent.

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In Genesis 45 when he first saw them he said, “You sold me but God sent me.” And here, “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.”

That is Romans 8:28

And we are knowing that for those who are loving God all things He is working together for good for those who are the called in accordance with His purpose.

Can I give you a little key that came to my mind when I came to my mind when I got to this point in the study? The key to Joseph’s faithful and victorious life was his ability to see God in every circumstance as the sovereign administrator over all of the events of his life and to use them in the full accomplishment of His purpose.

It is his ability to see God in everything in his life as the sovereign administrator so he can rise above it.

That is Joseph. God give me the high and holy privilege to prove to these brothers by my consistent faithful provision for all of their needs and my ability to forgive that I hold no bitterness toward them and the hurt that they perpetrated on me in my childhood by their hatred and their selling me into Egypt, the love of God can withstand that and rise above it.

It was Martin Luther who wrote these words:

**For feeling come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the word of God,
Naught else is worth believing.
Though all my heart should feel condemned
For want of some sweet token,
There is One greater than my heart
Whose word cannot be broken.**

Martin Luther realized that feelings come and feelings go and feelings are deceiving. If you are basing your salvation on your feelings, one day you feel saved and the next day you do not. But it is the Word of God that declares that I will never be separated. That He gives me eternal life and I will never perish, therefore there is one greater than my heart whose Word cannot be broken.

1 John 5:11,12

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His son. He that hath the Son hath life, and He that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

You sit before me in this class in one of two places. You either have the Son and have life or you do not have the Son and you do not have life.

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God said it; I believed it; that settled it! An eternal transaction took place.

Joseph said, “It has been done. I forgave you 17 years ago now please live in the freedom of my forgiveness and my unconditional love.”

And God is saying that to you today. He is saying I love you. Two thousand years ago my Son paid the penalty for your sin and I recognize that that penalty was paid totally adequate. And nothing you can do can surprise me because I cannot be surprised at what you are apart from what I am. So just trust me.

v. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

I am going to keep on taking care of you. Please be assured of the fact. I am going to be just the same way I was when father was alive. Do not increase my grief by your inability to believe.

v. 22 Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father's family. He lived a hundred and ten years.

Isn't that incredible. We have studied meticulously his life from 17 to 56 and now in one verse, in one phrase, we have skipped over 54 silent years. You want to talk to somebody when you get to Heaven. I want to find out what Joseph did during those 54 years. That is going to be something that is just now there.

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But that tells you also something else about the Bible. The Bible is a book that only gives significant details for your growth and your spiritual development. And a lot of times the things you would like to know and I would like to know are not all that important so they are just “X’d” out of the picture and passed out. Fifty four years are gone out of the life of this great man that we have grown to love and now we have got another funeral on our hands.

Joseph is 110 when he dies.

But he had some fun too. Notice the 23rd verse.

v. 23 and saw the third generation of Ephraim's children. *[Got to be a great-granddaddy.]* Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph's knees.

He got to do the same thing that Abraham and Jacob got to do. I never thought I was going to see your face again but I got to see your kids. Joseph is joyful. We know that. And the fact that the Word of God “X’s” out 56 to 110 tells you that from 56 to 110 nothing significant happened that was inconsistent with what you saw in the first 56 years. Because if something bad had happened like in the life of David or somebody else after 56 you would have gotten it in the record. Because the Bible does not make any plastic saints or X things out of the record if in fact there was a failure so you can assume on good evidence that from 56 to 110

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Joseph pulled a load and he was faithful to what he said.

He lived with those boys and continued to provide for them in every way and saw the third generation of these children.

v. 24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, *[Get this, this is great.]* “I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

Jacob when he dies on the front of the passage is looking back. Take me back home again and bury me by Leah.

Joseph is not. He has got his eyes on the Abrahamic covenant of the future. He says the day is coming when you are leaving here. Do not leave my bones behind when you go. That is the thing that caused him to qualify for being in the book of Hebrews. My life is passing away but you do not have to worry about it. Just because God buries his workman He is going to carry on His work. My life is just a shadow. God will come to your aid. He will take care of you.

v. 25 And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place.”

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And that is Hebrews 11:22

By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel and gave orders concerning his bones.

And if you want the reference Exodus 13:19-21 when Moses left with the bunch and they took off they had the bones of Joseph with them so they did it.

v. 26 So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

To wait the day when Moses is going to take the people out of there.

Well we say goodbye to a good man.

There are four indelible things that stand out before I give you the lessons.

- 1. Joseph was a man who feared God. He respected God's sovereign authority in his life. He was a man who feared God.**
- 2. He was a man who had a deep desire to please God in the way he lived. He was a man who had a deep desire to please God in the way he lived.**
- 3. He was a man with a heart toward God. He was a man with a heart toward God. The Lord was with him, directed him, and blessed him.**

4. The fourth lesson we get out of his life is “all things work together for good” and oh boy we have seen that.

I tried to summarize his life and I came up with two words: FELLOWSHIP and FAITHFULNESS. If we had attended his funeral those two words to characterize his life. He was a man of fellowship and a man of faithfulness.

You know something else that really comes out of his life? He is the perfect picture of an old man free of bitterness. He is a perfect picture of an old man free of bitterness.

You know the difference between beautiful old people and ugly old people? It is bitterness. You know some people just died bitter and they are just a pain to their whole family simply because when they get old they do not have anything to hang onto and that is terrible. But beautiful people that die are the people that you always remember how they die.

Those kind of things mean more to you than anything in the world when you see people so free of bitterness and so ready to enter into the presence of God. What an enriching experience.

Joseph was like that. He had every reason to be just oozing with bitterness over what those boys did to him but he was totally free of all that and what a beautiful illustration he is.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Death for the man who walks with God is just a simple conclusion to a well-ordered life. I like this statement. The Lord is saying, Come on home, I have got some new assignments for you.

LESSON #2: The greatest thing we can do for those who depart is to fulfill their final wishes. Do what they would want done.

LESSON #3: Often times the guilt of past sins comes back to haunt us. God expects us to forget those things which are behind and press toward those things which are in front. Guilt oftentimes comes back to haunt us from past sin. And God expects us to forget those things.

LESSON #4: We grieve our Savior by our inability to believe Him and that His forgiveness is legitimate. He does not hold a grudge. So you can come to a person who says, when something bad is happening in their life for instance and they will say that is God getting even with me. (No Way). God got even once and all for all at Calvary. He does not hold a grudge. That does not fit His character at all. We grieve our Savior by our inability to believe Him that His forgiveness is legitimate.

LESSON #5: The validity of Joseph's forgiveness is his consistent attitude.

LESSON #6: Joseph is looking to the future with confidence when it comes time for him to die.

LESSON #7: Joseph was a good man who walked with God.

Number 8 is Romans 8:28

LESSON #8: All things work together for good.

LESSON #9: Joseph was a man who feared God, desired to please God, fellowshiped with God, and saw God in people and events. That summarizes it.

And then when I got through with that I just figured I would just put it all in F's okay.

**He FEARED,
He FOLLOWED,
He FELLOWSHIPED
And he was FAITHFUL to his God.**

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

STUDY NUMBER TWELVE - GENESIS 50:1-26

NOTES

- v. 1 Joseph threw himself upon his father and wept over him and kissed him.
- v. 2 Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. So the physicians embalmed him,
- v. 3 taking a full forty days, for that was the time required for embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.
- v. 4 When the days of mourning had passed, Joseph said to Pharaoh's court, "If I have found favor in your eyes, speak to Pharaoh for me. Tell him,
- v. 5 'My father made me swear an oath and said, "I am about to die; bury me in the tomb I dug for myself in the land of Canaan." Now let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.'"
- v. 6 Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear to do."
- v. 7 So Joseph went up to bury his father. All Pharaoh's officials accompanied him—the dignitaries of his court and all the dignitaries of Egypt—
- v. 8 besides all the members of Joseph's household and his brothers and those belonging to his father's household. Only their children and their flocks and herds were left in Goshen.
- v. 9 Chariots and horsemen also went up with him. It was a very large company.
- v.10 When they reached the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan, they lamented loudly and bitterly; and there Joseph observed a seven-day period of mourning for his father.
- v.11 When the Canaanites who lived there saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "The Egyptians are holding a solemn ceremony of mourning." That is why that place near the Jordan is called Abel Mizraim.
- v.12 So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them:
- v.13 They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham had bought as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite, along with the field.
- v.14 After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, together with his brothers and all the others who had gone with him to bury his father.
- v.15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"
- v.16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died:
- v.17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.
- v.18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.
- v.19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?"
- v.20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.
- v.21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

v.22 Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father's family. He lived a hundred and ten years

v.23 and saw the third generation of Ephraim's children. Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph's knees.

v.24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

v.25 And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place."

v.26 So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Genesis 50:1-26 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Describe Joseph's response to his father's death in verses 1-9.

3. Where is Jacob buried, according to verse 13?

4. What is the concern of Joseph's brothers, according to verse 15?

5. What do they do in light of their concern, according to verses 16 & 17?

6. What is Joseph's response to their pleas, according to verses 19-21?

7. Describe in your own words the remainder of Joseph's life.

8. What does Joseph say to his brothers in his final statement, according to verses 24 & 25?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Death for the man who walks with God is just a simple conclusion to a well-ordered life of service here on the earth. The Lord is saying, “Come on home, I have some new assignments for you.”

LESSON #2: The greatest things we can do for those who depart from us is to fulfill their final wishes.

LESSON #3: Often times the guilt of past sins comes back to haunt us. God expects us to forget those things which are behind and press on toward those things which are in front.

LESSON #4: We grieve our Savior by our inability to believe Him and that His forgiveness is legitimate.

LESSON #5: The validity of Joseph’s forgiveness is seen in his consistency of attitude.

LESSON #6: Joseph is looking to the future with confidence when it comes time for him to die.

LESSON #7: Joseph was a good man who walked with God. He did what he could.

LESSON #8: All things work together for good.

LESSON #9: Joseph was a man who feared God, desired to please God, fellowshiped with God, and saw God in people and events.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
