Sermon Notes

**Rev, Nick Doyle**

**Hall of Faith Inductee: Joseph – Faith That Looks Beyond the Grave**

Text: Hebrews 11:22; Genesis 50:22–26

***“If your life could be summarized in just one sentence of Scripture, what would it say?”***

**Hall of Faith Text:** “By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.”  Heb. 11:22

**Big Idea:**

***Faith holds onto God’s promises even when the present looks nothing like the promised future.***

**Today we are going to look at 3 action steps Faith takes**

**Action Step 1: Faith Looks Beyond the Present**

**Text: Hebrews 11:22; Genesis 50:22–26**

**Faith looks beyond the comfort of the present and anchors itself in the unchanging promises of God.**

* Joseph’s request wasn’t just about burial; it was a declaration of trust in **God’s covenant faithfulness**.
* Hebrews 11 highlights Joseph not for his political success or dreams, but for his **eschatological hope** — his **confidence in God’s future redemption**.
* Faith, at its core, is a **forward-looking trust** that transcends present realities in light of **eternal truth**.

**Key Truth:** Real faith refuses to settle. It holds loosely to earthly gains because it holds tightly to God’s promises

**Action Step 2: Faith Clings to God’s Word**

**“God will surely visit you and bring you up out of this land…”** — *Genesis 50:24*

At the end of his life, Joseph didn’t offer a sentimental farewell. He gave a prophetic declaration. His final words weren’t focused on Egypt’s power or his legacy — they were centered on **God’s promise**.

This wasn’t blind optimism. Joseph’s words in **Genesis 50:24** were **anchored in covenantal truth** — a direct reference to **God’s promise to Abraham** in Genesis 15:13–14:

Even though **the timeline was long** (400 years!), Joseph **believed God's Word would outlast Egypt's throne**.

**Biblical faith is not primarily about understanding what God is doing; it's about trusting who God is — and what He has already said.**

**Action Step 3: Faith Speaks to the Next Generation (v. 25)**

*Joseph made the sons of Israel swear: “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.”*

Joseph’s request was far more than a logistical note in his will. It was a deliberate, theological declaration of God’s covenant faithfulness. In telling the sons of Israel, *“God will surely visit you,”* Joseph was reminding them of the unbreakable promises God made to Abraham (Gen. 15:13–16), reaffirmed to Isaac, and confirmed to Jacob.

**He wasn’t just making funeral arrangements — he was making a faith statement.**

**Why Hebrews 11 Remembers This Moment**

When the writer of Hebrews summarizes Joseph’s life, he doesn’t mention ruling Egypt, saving the known world from famine, or interpreting Pharaoh’s dreams. Instead, he writes:

*“By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus…and gave directions concerning his bones.”* (Heb. 11:22)

Why?  
Because true faith is not measured by how high you climb in life, but by how firmly you hold to God’s promises — and pass them on to those who come after you. Joseph’s greatest achievement was not administrative brilliance but spiritual foresight. He died pointing the next generation toward the future work of God.

**Final Challenge**

Joseph’s last act of faith was not ruling Egypt, saving lives during famine, or interpreting dreams.  
It was pointing God’s people to the promises of God and saying, *“Don’t forget — He will come for you.”*

One day, you and I will have our own “last words.”  
Will they be words of worry and regret?  
Or will they be faith statements that point the next generation to trust God until the very end?

May we live in such a way that when our life is summarized in one sentence, it says:  
**“By faith, they trusted God’s promises and pointed others toward His future.”**