

## What Treasure Will We Leave Behind

Jesus advised us to lay up treasures in heaven. One wisely observed, your fishing boat will not make the trip to heaven. We tend to place value on things which have no eternal value to God. Gold is of supreme value on earth but in heaven it's used to fill pot holes.

We should be diligent to lay up treasure in heaven and make sure we leave the proper testimony behind. Each of us has a life story which reveals what we lived for. Jesus revealed that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. When we are gone from this world, what treasure will we leave behind? Will its value be earthly or heavenly?

When troubling times come our way, we always protect our treasure. During such times, some see their faith grow, and others see their faith fails. These troubling times will pass, but what they reveal will be recorded and will remain forever until corrected.

**Hebrew 11:22** summarises the life story of Joseph, *'By faith Joseph, when he was dying, mentioned the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.'* If that does not strike you as odd then think deeper.

Who is Joseph and why would God make such a big deal about his bones? Joseph had an amazing life. He was one of the twelve sons of Jacob. Sold into slavery by his brothers and carried to Egypt. Falsely accused by his master's wife and sent to prison. Each step the story gets sadder and then delivered by God becomes second only to the King of Egypt. His is an amazing testimony of the grace of God in a man's life. (You can read the full account in Genesis)

Let the picture develop in your mind. Joseph is rich and honoured beyond measure. His brothers now live in Egypt and are now gathered by Joseph's death bed. They await to hear what Joseph will do with his riches. Imagine their disappointment and dismay when he says, **'I bequeath you my bones'** (Gen 50:24-26). Can you see the shock on their faces? With all the treasures you possess, you are leavening us your bones! What value on earth are your bones?

**Value?** Joseph was leaving behind the treasure of his faith in the Lord. God had promised Abraham and his decedents a different home. The Promised Land! For some 400 years those bones would bear silent testimony to a nation of slaves to trust God. His bones declared, *'We are Hebrews, we **belong** to another country.'*

### **Big Question: What does God value in your life story?**

Remember, without faith it is impossible to please God.

Amazingly, the bones of Joseph are mentioned four times in the Bible.

**The first time the bones are mentioned, they proclaim 'God Will Bring You Out' ~ Gen.50: 25**

### **The second time, the bones declare 'God Will Bring You Through' ~ Ex.13:18-19**

When the Israelites left Egypt, many people took gold and treasures. Moses took the bones of Joseph ~ Why? Those **bones whispered**, *'God has brought you out and God will bring you through.'* Thus, during the great crisis experiences in the wilderness:

others trembled ~ Moses trusted

others conquered by fear ~ Moses controlled by faith

The bones of Joseph reminded Moses of the promises of God.

**The third time, the bones testify that ‘God Will Bring You In’ ~ Josh.24:32**

In the end, Joshua buried Joseph’s bones in the promised land of Canaan. God had overcome all obstacles and every foe. The Lord could be trusted. Faith is the victory.

Will my life story be one of faith in Christ and His Word? Will my story testify that Jesus can get me out of sin, keep me faithful on earth and take me to heaven when I die? We can leave behind no greater gift.

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, You have commanded me to seek first Your Kingdom and trust you to provide all I need for life here and beyond. Use these troubling days to reveal Your greatness and my heart. May my life story speak of trusting you.

**Action Point**

Share with your family the legacy of faith you wish to leave behind. Show by action that you are seeking first the Kingdom of God.