

THE LIFE OF FAITH: FORGIVENESS AND FRUITFULNESS

Genesis 48-50

Our self-centered technological society seeks instant gratification and immediate results. The “good life” emblazoned on television and social media is measured by what we have and use NOW. The elderly are usually considered obsolete rather than examples of how to live fully for the long run. Yet they are a resource, teaching us valuable lessons about preserving in the life of faith. How has someone older than yourself had an impact on your life and why? How do you picture yourself making an impact upon someone younger than you?

1. Jacob does an astounding thing; an act that demonstrated his great _____ in the promises of God: he _____ the two sons of Joseph as his own.
2. How will Jacobs’ adoption of Ephraim and Manasseh affect their share in the promises God made to Jacob? (Genesis 48:1-7)

BIRTHRIGHT – BLESSING – FIRSTBORN – SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

In Jacob’s day, the firstborn was always to receive the best—a double portion—of the family’s inheritance and blessing. But often, in God’s sovereignty, the younger son was chosen to be more greatly used in God’s purposes.

Look at the following examples of the younger being chosen in scripture:

- Seth was chosen before Cain.
- Shem was chosen before Japheth.
- Abraham was chosen before Haran.
- Isaac was chosen before Ishmael.
- Jacob was chosen before Esau.
- Ephraim was chosen before Manasseh.
- Moses was chosen before his brother.
- Gideon was chosen before his brothers.
- David was chosen before his brothers.

In each of these cases, God was demonstrating two great truths: His sovereignty and His grace. How would you describe both in the story of Joseph, Jacob and Joseph's two sons? (48:17-18)

Sovereignty –

Grace –

3. The blessing of Jacob (Genesis 49:1-27). Each of Jacob's sons receives a blessing from him. Complete the following information:

Son's Name	Blessing
Reuben (49:3-4)	
Simeon and Levi (49:5-7)	
Judah (49:8-12)	
Zebulun (49:13)	
Issachar (49:14-15)	
Dan (49:16-18)	
Gad (49:19)	
Asher (49:20)	

Naphtali (49:21)	
Joseph (49:22-26)	
Benjamin (49:27)	

4. Burial of Jacob

- a. The request (49:28-33): Jacob request to be buried with his _____ in the cave of Machpelah at Hebron. The he dies.
- b. The return (50:1-14): Following a 70 day period of mourning, the twelve brothers carry their father's embalmed body to Hebron.
- c. The result of forgiveness:
 - i. It is God's place to judge (50:19; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
 - ii. God works it out for good (50:20; Romans 8:28)
 - iii. We must repay evil with good (50:21; Romans 12:21)
- d. The remaining years (50:22-26): Joseph lives to see the third generation of Ephraim's children and dies at age 110. (1 Corinthians 15:58) We must follow God to the very end of life. We will face trials and sorrow. But we must not let the crisis hurt and defeat us. We must arise, get up, and go about our duties, conquering the sorrows and trials life. LIFE MUST GO ON!

***"Great is Thy faithfulness, " O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.***

***"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!***