

JOSEPH- PROFILE OF COURAGE

Part 9: Courage to Finish Well (Ch. 50)

INTRO: Who did you know that finished well? (Fred, Bob, etc.). Will you (I) finish well? Steve Farrar (author of Point Man) says only one in ten men finish well. When we come to Gen. 50, we not only come to the end of Genesis, we come to the end of the life of Joseph. How did he finish? The same way he lived. He finished well.

SERIES QUESTION: “How would your outlook on life change if you had the courage to really believe God was with you in every situation?” When life kicks you in the face, do you react, try to control, etc. Jonah got angry, resisted and ran. Joseph had the courage to trust all the way to his end. He finished strong and well. Let’s read Acts 7:9-21...

CONTEXT: 49:29-33 Jacob, his father, was dead at age 147. They were able to spend the last 17 years together. He was 56 when he buried his father. He’d lived on for 54 more years. What do we see in this final chapter and then what lessons can we learn?

I. JOSEPH’S GRIEF (50:1-14)

- A. *We see weeping of Joseph* (v.1)
- B. *We see embalming of Jacob* (vv.2-3a)
- C. *We see more grieving by Egypt* (v.3b)
- D. *We see requesting of Pharaoh* (vv.4-16)

II. JOSEPH’S GRACE (50:15-21)

- A. *We see fearful brothers* (vv.15-17a) – for the last 17 years they’d live in fear looking over their shoulder – terrible way to live. Unable (unwilling) to enjoy Joseph’s compassion and generosity. Like many they’d struggled in receiving unmerited grace. So the brothers do what they saw dad do so many times, which they also did – they schemed (vv.16-17a)
- B. *We see grace reigns* (vv.17b-21).
 - 1. Joseph weeps (v.17b) – final time
 - 2. Brothers bow (v.18) –
 - 3. “Fear not” (v.19) – Judgment and vengeance belong only to God (Rom. 12:14-21).

- 4. God specializes in bringing good out of bad (v.20). His ways (goodness) are not always ours (Isa. 55:8-9)
- 5. “Do not fear, I will provide...” he assured them and comforted them (v.21). I will not judge you but I will provide for you – what grace!

III. JOSEPH’S GLORY (50:22-26)

- A. Death at 110 (v.22). 80 years in Egypt as second in command.
- B. Blessing to see great grandchildren from Ephraim and Manasseh (v.23).
- C. Promises to brothers (vv.24-25)
 - 1. “God will visit you” (2xs) – As He was with me, so He’ll be with you.
 - 2. You shall return to the land of promise.
 - 3. Bury my bones in Canaan, not Egypt. 400 years later Moses did so (Exo. 13:19). In a coffin in Egypt for now (v26).

Note: Interesting compromises in life of Joseph and Jesus...

LIFE LESSONS

- 1. *God overrules the evil intentions and moral failures of fallen people to achieve His eternal purposes* (45:4-8; 50:19-20). In fact, He seems to use suffering more than to relieve it.
- 2. *Joseph’s life illustrates the truths of Rom. 8:28-29* (verses on slide). God’s good is sometimes different than ours. He doesn’t always do the good we think a good God should do.
- 3. *To finish well you must live well.* Joseph did. Tombstone: “Faithful to the end.” Whether in pit, prison, palace, poverty, prosperity. Paul, too (2 Tim. 4:6-8). How possible? No matter the circumstances choose to respond with confidence that God is with you.

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CONC: Joseph has been a profile of courage to trust that no matter what that God is always with us. Amen?