

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph (Manasseh/Ephraim), and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

People often think of death as the end of all but the scriptures say in

Psalm 116:15

15 Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints.

Joseph, presents his two sons, Manasseh (the older) and Ephraim (the younger) to Jacob for a blessing.

In Gen 48 Joseph presented Manasseh on the left (Jacob's right) and Ephraim on the right (Jacob's left).

Joseph was expecting Jacob

- to give Manasseh the greater blessing.

But Jacob crossed his arms to place his right hand on Ephraim (the younger)

- and his left on Manasseh.

Joseph then tried correcting his dad

Gen 48:19

19 But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. (It's like saying, son, I know what I'm doing. I may be old but I still know what I'm doing) He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

God's purposes are not bound by human traditions, but unfold according to His will.

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Joseph was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers and was taken to Egypt

- where he served in Potiphar's house
- as a household slave.

Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph

- of trying to assault her.
- He was then thrown into prison.

Joseph was raised to know God as were his brothers.

- Yet, his brothers sold him into slavery.
- He was imprisoned and still chose
- to trust God and remained faithful.

Notice what Joseph said when he was dying:

(He) made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

He believed God at His word. He knew God had made a promise

- and believed the promise would be fulfilled.

I believe Joseph was saying, God promised to take us out of here

- and I believe that promise,
- so don't leave me behind.

Take my bones with you. His desire was to be associated

- with God's covenant people
- in the promised inheritance.

We should have the same attitude, "Lord, where you lead, I will follow,"

Heb 11:23-29

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. 24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. 29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.

The greatest person in the minds of the Jew at the time was Moses.

The scriptures tell us that God revealed Himself to the prophets,

- but the scriptures also say that
- God spoke to Moses face to face.

It was thru Moses that the 10 commandments were given.

The first 5 books known as the Torah in Judaism were written by Moses.

Num 12:3 says concerning Moses that he was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.

Heb 11:23

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

Moses' parents were from the tribe of Levi.

- His dad was Amram
- and his mom was Jochebed.

Moses had a brother named Aaron who became a high priest

- and a sister named Miriam
- who became a prophetess.

It all starts in the home.

- We are to teach our children
- the way they should go

Notice one of the reasons Moses was hidden,

- verse 23 says he was a beautiful child.

Acts 7 says that Moses was “well pleasing to God.”

They trusted that God was somehow going to use this child.

They acted by faith and kept the child for a few months

- prior to placing him in a basket out on the river.

A command was issued by Pharaoh

- that all infant male children were to be killed
- since he was fearful of the growing number of Hebrews.

However, Moses' parents feared God rather than Pharaoh.

- They knew there was a potential danger by keeping Moses,
- but their faith moved them to act,
- not merely to believe inwardly.

What amazing faith Moses' parents must have had.

Notice in the verse they were not afraid of the king's command.

- The command was to have every Hebrew baby boy
- drowned in the Nile River

The faith of Moses' parents overcame their fear of earthly authority.

They were very bold when you consider that Pharaoh

- had the power to have them imprisoned
- or even killed for disobeying his command.

Imagine this, Moses' mother is paid to nurse her own son

- but that would have been only for about three years
- then she'd have to give him up.

By the end of verse 23

- Moses is right at 40 years old.

His parents had about 3 years to influence him in the ways of the Lord.

- It all started in his home.

This great man started with great godly parents.

Let that be an example to all of us who have children or grandchildren.

- Let that be an example to those of us
- that are teaching Sunday School
- or to those involved with children in some capacity.

Moses had as good a foundation as he could

- by the time he was taken by Pharaoh's daughter.

Notice at last in verse 23 that Moses' parents

- were not afraid of the king's command.

They believed God's purposes

- were greater than the threats surrounding them.

They had a faith that refused to be ruled by fear.

Heb 11:24-26

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

By faith Moses was preserved.

- That was thru the faith of his parents.

Then by faith, Moses refused

- to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

He refused to have all of the finer things in life

- by refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

Instead, he chose to suffer afflictions with the people of God.

To suffer affliction literally means “to have a bad time with.”

So Moses literally chose to have a bad time with his people

- and to follow God rather than having
- the pleasures that were available to him.

What were the pleasures available to Moses?

- It was to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

Sin can be pleasurable for a moment,

- but those moments are short lived.

See, the bible doesn't pretend that temptation is unattractive.

- In fact, temptation often works
- because it appeals to lust,
- to pride, power, revenge,
- to greed and to the flesh.

1 Jn 2:16 summarizes these attractions. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

Sinful pleasures often hide consequences.

Prov 9:17-18

17 “Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” 18 But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell.

In the context of Prov 9, wisdom and folly are pictured as two women

- inviting people to follow them.

And verses 17 & 18 describe the danger of folly

- and its dangerous outcome.
- Water and bread often symbolize satisfaction or pleasure.
- But the water and bread mentioned here are stolen.

The idea of them being stolen suggests:

- sinful gain
- immorality
- rebellion against God

Things done in secret are pleasant for a moment according to verse 17.

18 But he does not know that the dead are there,

See, the foolish person looks only to the present, not the final outcome.

Sin may appear to be attractive, but it hides the

- Guilt
- Judgement
- Bondage and spiritual death

Prov 14:12

12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Moses understood this, therefore, he chose to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

We live in a world today that is all about pleasure,

- money, fame, power etc.

Moses refused all of the pleasures of life which would have led him to sin,

- rather, he chose to suffer
- the afflictions of his people.

I wonder how many times a Christian business owner

- has refused corruption even though
- it would bring him wealth.

What about students refusing to write term papers

- that go against their Christian beliefs
- only to be threatened with a bad grade
- or even a failing grade.

When we decide to stand for our faith

- that often means we have to stand against something
- that may often be uncomfortable.

You may have to shut that ad that popped up on your computer.

We often have to say, I don't agree with this or that

- because it goes against my Christian values.

Jesus Himself said:

Mark 8:36

36 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?

People are so caught up in the world that they pay no attention to the eternal.

- This world as we know it is fading away,
- but God's word is eternal.

Paul said to the Corinthians

2 Cor 4:18

18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen