

S030117a – 05/31/26
“The Secret to Joseph’s Life”
Genesis 49:22-26

Introduction – Read Genesis 49:22-46

- Now this Wednesday Night we are going to wrap up the book of Genesis as we do we have some great things to talk about this Wednesday Night
 - Maybe you can tell, maybe you can’t yet, but I love and am a student of history, and Egyptian history has always been such an interest of mine
 - And those of us who have taken college level courses on such things know that before the 16th dynasty of Egyptian Pharaoh, which is where we are in history at the end of Genesis, before the 16th Dynasty, Pharaoh was not really the unquestioned King who owned everything in the land.
- People own their own property, did what they wanted for a living, but everything changes in the 16th Dynasty and at the end the Pharaoh owns every person, and piece of land in his nation
 - And yet Egyptian does’t really tell us why
 - But when you study the Bible along side with Egyptian history, you get the full picture and so we will talk about that this Wednesday Night

We will also see Jacob prophesy over his sons and what the 12 tribes they will become will be like

- And we will see how accurate the Jacob’s prophecies are
 - History and prophecy, it is going to be a great Wednesday Night, I hope you can be with us!

But this morning we finish up our Sundays in the book of Genesis and in doing so we are looking at Genesis 49, starting in verse 22 and we are going to see the secret to Joseph’s success in life

As you know Joseph is one of the greatest Old Testament figures

- Joseph even in the most trying of circumstances and trials lived a life that was successful and fruitful
 - And that is something we obviously want in our lives, in our professions, in our families
 - None of us want to be losers
 - We want to be winners
- We don't want to failures
 - We want to be successful

On Amazon alone, there are 363,974 books on being successful

- Some of you younger people are surprised there are 363 thousand different books to begin with
 - There is way more than that – there almost 364,000 books just on being successful in different areas
 - And what that shows you is this is something that is important to us as human being
- We want to be successful, we want purpose and direction
 - And of course, the world gives us its opinion of how – how to make more money, how to be with someone who is beautiful, how to take more time for you

But really Christianity gives us such a different picture

- The Westminster Catechism which is basically a summary of Christian belief from around 1650 basically summarizes Romans 11:36, I Corinthians 10:31 and Revelation 4:11 by saying...

“The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.” – Opening Statement of the Westminster Catechism

**The hallmark of success of a human life, unlike what the world tells you is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever
That was why you were created**

- And how do we do that?
 - Well John 15 tells us

**“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit”
– John 15:8**

- Jesus is talking to His disciples and He says – do you want to know how to glorify my Father in heaven?
 - You bear much fruit

So if you are following me

- We want to be successful
 - Success in this life is glorifying God with our lives
 - And we glorify God by bearing fruit
- And that brings us to our text today in Genesis 49, starting in verse 22, it says

Joseph is a fruitful bough or branch

- Now some of you are thinking, stop right there for a second pastor
 - Do I want to be successful – yes I do
 - Do I want to glorify God – absolutely
- And Jesus says the way to do it is bear fruit?
 - Joseph was successful, Joseph glorified the Lord and the first thing his dad says about him is he is a “a fruitful branch???”

**Well my question is – what does Jesus mean, bear fruit?
What does Jacob mean, Joseph was fruitful?**

- Does God wants me to produce apples or oranges?
 - Does God want me to be a farmer?
 - Does God want me to grow fruit – I don’t know how to do that?

Listen precious church - Rest assured this morning that in order to please God you don’t need to change jobs, or to have something really weird happen to you, where berries start growing between your toes

- In that happens, you may want to see a doctor

No, when the Bible, when Jesus, when Jacob talks about bearing fruit, they are speaking of spiritual things happening in your life

The Bible specifically speaks of five areas of our life that are consider “spiritual fruit”

- You bible students might want to write these down

Spiritual “fruit”

#1 – Winning Souls – Romans 1:13, Proverbs 11:30

- When we share our faith, we when pour out our lives for others as Paul did for the Romans, being among them and sharing with them that people may come to know the Lord – God looks at us multiply the Kingdom of God that way and says – that is fruit, and I love it - evangelism

#2 – Holiness – Romans 6:22

- Romans 6 tells us that Holiness is fruit, when we choose to stand apart from the world and with the Lord, when our lives look more like Jesus than the culture we were brought up in – God says, I love that, and He considers that fruit

#3 – Giving – Romans 15:28

- Paul is talking to the Romans about receiving a monetary offering from them to take to the poor in Jerusalem, and when he is talking about giving in that way, he calls it a fruit
 - God sees when we take part of what He has given us financially to live on, and we just entrust it back to him in the form of a tithe or an offering – He is glorified and sees that as fruit in our lives

#4 – Good Works – Colossians 1:10

- As we live a life that blesses God, blessing other people through the things we do – God says, that is fruit

#5 – Worship – Hebrews 13:15

- As we give honor to God with our lips as we sing songs to Him here, as we talk about Him to others – we ascribe greatness to God and He see that as fruit

Our course the summery of all that God consider fruit in our lives as believers is Galatians chapter 5, verse 22

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” – Galatians 5:22-23

- The summary statement when we want to understand, my chief end, what I am really looking for, what will really satisfy me, what is really success in this life is to glorify God
 - And God is glorified, John 15, when I bear fruit
 - And what is that?
- Its winning souls, a life that is holy, when I give to the Kingdom of God, when I let good works dominate my life and when I am worshipper
 - All of that summed up in the statement – the fruit of the Spirit is love, which manifests itself as joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

So when the Bible says we are to produce fruit

- When Jesus says, by this my Father is glorified that you bear fruit
 - When Jacob says – Joseph you are a fruitful branch
 - These are the things that are meant

But so today is not just some the theological discussion on what fruit happens to be from a Biblical perspective as we look at our text this morning, I want us to notice three things from the passage we read so we can learn to be successful in producing fruit like Joseph was

The Secret of Joseph’s Life – Genesis 49:22-26

#1 – The Reality of his fruitfulness – 49:22

#2 – The Result of his fruitfulness – 49:23-26

#3 – The Reason for his fruitfulness – 49:22

- And let’s look at those one at a time this morning starting with...

The Secret of Joseph’s Life – Genesis 49:22-26

#1 – The Reality of his fruitfulness – 49:22

- Jacob says Joseph is a fruitful branch

Joseph was of course successful and satisfied in this life, much more than most of us and much more than the rulers of Joseph's day or of ours

- I mean there have been many rulers in the world, with power and money and fame
 - And yet very few have an impact on the world and a satisfaction of soul like Joseph had
 - So it has to be more than just about money and power

So what do we see in Joseph life?

***Put 5 things are "fruit" slide back up**

- Did He win souls?
 - Yes – He saved them in a practical sense as everyone would have starved if he wasn't around to hear from the Lord and avert disaster in Egypt
 - But more than just saving people's lives, I personally believe Joseph led people to God
- We see subtle hints in the text like the fact that Joseph's wife, who was the daughter of one of the most pagan priests in the history of the world, allows Joseph to name their boys Hebrew names and in Genesis 46 she is included in the list of those considered part of the family of Jacob, the Jewish people, the family of God
 - So I believe Joseph had a huge influence on his wife
- You even see it in his interaction of Joseph's translator with his brothers
 - Before the brothers know Joseph is Joseph, they interact with the translator and yet the things he says on his own and the way he talks about the God of Israel is really interesting to me – I think Joseph had a huge influence on him – so I think it is safe to say Joseph won souls

Was Joseph holy? – for sure!

- Although he worked and lived in Egypt – His life was completely set apart for the Lord

He didn't give into their culturally accepted sins and lifestyle in any way

- Joseph was holy

Was Joseph a giver? – yes he was!

- Not only did he give of his life in service to others, Potiphar, the butler and baker in the prison and to Pharaoh and the nation of Egypt
 - But he was also a giver in that he ordered the money put back in the brother's sacks – He just willingly gave to them
 - And from historical notes, he was not able to be bought off no matter who was trying, which is an indicator of proper priorities when it came to his own money and wealth

Was Joseph full of good works? – yes he was!

- From serving Potiphar faithfully, to serving the overseer of the prison faithfully, to serving a nation faithfully
 - To refusing to give into sin and compromise
 - Joseph was full of good works

And Joseph was a worshipper

- Every time people tried to give him credit, to say, “I hear that you can interpret dreams”
 - Joseph would reply, “it is only the Lord that can do that”
 - And he would turn that glory to the Lord

And I want you to see this because again there have been many rulers with power and money and fame

- But that doesn't seem to satisfy
 - So what is Joseph's secret? – as his Dad said of him, he is a fruitful branch
- Not only was Joseph fruitful, but secondly today, notice the results of Joseph being a fruitful branch

The Secret of Joseph's Life – Genesis 49:22-26

#1 – The Reality of his fruitfulness – 49:22

#2 – The Result of his fruitfulness – 49:23-26

So as we have already noted, Joseph was fruitful in everything He did

- And John 15:8 says that God is glorified when we bear much fruit, so

The first result of Joseph's fruitfulness was...

#1 – God was glorified

- It has always been an amazing thing to me that we as sinful human beings have the ability to bring God glory
 - I mean just think about that statement for a minute
 - He is in heaven, angels are flying around Him 24 hours a day, seven days a week, some of those angelic beings won't even look at Him, He is so holy
- And yet you and me – and come on, you know you and me – we can bring God glory?
 - The one who created the world and the universe with a word – We can bring Him glory?
- And as crazy as that sounds, the answer is yes
 - We can bring Him glory as our lives bear fruit
 - And what a motivation for me to get this right, to think about the fact that I can bring God glory by the way I live my life, bearing fruit in my life

#2 – Others were benefited

- Because Joseph was who he was – it wasn't just God who got some glory – other human beings really benefited from who Joseph was, v 22, his branches ran over the wall

I mean of course you have the nation of Egypt and all the surrounding countries survive because of who Joseph was

- But in his story it is even more specific than that He was a benefit to Potiphar, he was a benefit to the keeper in the prison, he was a benefit to the cupbearer, he was a benefit to Pharaoh and Egypt and of course also to his brothers – His life was a benefit to others

#3 – He was blessed

- Yes, God was gloried and yes others benefited as the fruitful branches of who Joseph was just flowed over the wall of his life to others

But let's not forget Joseph was blessed himself

- His character did not go unnoticed by God
 - And God eventually gave him richness in what He did, in the life He lived, Joseph more so than any of the brothers that were blessed by his coat tails, Joseph was supremely blessed
- And verse 24 – His relationship with God strengthened him
 - God helped him and blessed above everyone else around him - Because Joseph was a fruitful branch

And of course, all of this leaves us with one very important question this morning

- Joseph seemed to be satisfied more than any other leader we know about who also had money and power
 - His life was a blessing to God, to others and He was totally blessed in the process and because of his fruitfulness
- So the only question that remains is how can this happen to us, what is the secret of Joseph satisfied and successful life?

The Secret of Joseph's Life – Genesis 49:22-26

#1 – The Reality of his fruitfulness – 49:22

#2 – The Result of his fruitfulness – 49:23-26

#3 – The Reason for his fruitfulness – 49:22

- The reason for all of this is given to us right there in verse 22 - Joseph was a fruitful bough, by a well

It is very similar to what David says in my favorite of all the Psalms, Psalm 1
“**Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth fruit in its season, whose leaf does not wither and whatever he does shall prosper.**” –
Psalm 1:1-3

David says, we are blessed when we are not being shaped by a culture that is wicked, by their thoughts, their priorities or ideals

- But when we are letting the Word of God shape us

That is, when we are like a tree planted by a river or a fruitful branch right by a well

- Our roots are able to go down deep into something that will benefit and bless us, others and as amazing as it is, even the Lord

And I want you to really see this and apply this today

- We want to know the secret of Joseph's life?
 - We see how successful it is, how fulfilled he is, how much he blesses God and others
 - And we think what's the secret?
- And I even called the study that today, because there is something about calling something a secret where we pay attention – right?

You know we will announce a retreat for weeks and weeks and weeks – from the pulpit, in the bulletin, video announcements with music and pictures

- And it never fails, we get close to the retreat and someone who I know has been there for most of those times, says, “I didn't know there was a retreat? You guys need to do a better job letting the body know what is happening!”
 - What?
- I am convinced that what we really should do, is put retreat information and a registration form in a sealed envelope that says – “don't open in public” – it's a secret
 - Because people would be thinking about what is in there the whole time I'm teaching and they would try to peak a little bit in the service and then at home, they would tear in
 - Because it is “secret information”

And knowing that, I have kind pulled a bait and switch on you today

The secret of Joseph's life....

- Why he was so successful – why he was so satisfied, what's the secret?

There is no secret

- His life was planted by a well
 - Meaning he received everything he was by pouring in and receiving sustenance from the roots he allowed to go down into His relationship with God

And I'm sorry there is no secret but... I believe because it is so simple, we overcomplicate what it is to grow in God

- We think what study series do I need to do, what pastor needs to disciple me, what program do I need to get involved in?
 - And all of those things can be a blessing to you

But what it really takes to bear fruit is to plant yourself by the river of who Jesus is, to plant yourself next to the well that is Him and let your roots go down deep - And listen me, listen to me, listen to me

- If you do that, you will bear fruit because that is what God created you to do
 - We strive, we worry, we try to plan
 - But think it through with me

Have you ever had fruit trees in your back yard?

- Fruit trees that actually produced fruit?
 - Think about it – did you ever walk out in your backyard and hear them stressing, striving, pumping themselves up?
- I have to bear fruit – have to please the master, oh come on, let's do this, ahhhh – pop, an apple – Nope!!!
 - How do fruit trees bear fruit?

It takes good soil right? – soil rich with nutrients

- It takes sunlight – no shortage of that out here
 - And it takes water

And, and – if that tree is planted in good soil, if it is receiving sunlight and water, it will just bear fruit because that is what God designed it to do in those condition - And why this is so important for you and I to see is because we think how am I going to do this?

I want to be successful

- I want to be satisfied
 - I want to lead people to Christ
 - I want to be holy
 - I want to not be so stingy, I want to give
 - I want to have good works mark my life
 - And I want to worship

How? – and we strive and worry and fret – come on Lord, fruit!!!!

- But instead if you would realize for you to bear fruit, like that fruit tree, first of all...

You need good soil and there is no better soil than the Word of God.

You decide this morning – I am done letting my roots go down deep into the things of the world

- I am done getting my values and priorities from evening TV shows and popular music and movies, I am done
 - I want instead to make a decision today to let my roots go down deep into the soil of Your Word
 - To let Your Word shape my priorities and thoughts
- I am going to plant myself in this well not just on Sundays or Wednesday, but every day I am going to get into your Word
 - To read it, to write down a verse or two that ministers to your heart and put that verse on a note in your phone and look at it all throughout the day, try to memorize, meditate in it
- I want to plant myself in the good soil of God's word
 - And...

Secondly, I want to be washed and refreshed by the living water of His Holy Spirit.

- Jesus said in John 7...

“If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” – John 7:37-39

- Jesus says, are any of thirsty? Have you realized this life isn't fulfilling some need inside?
 - Jesus said come to me for living water
 - And John says, we didn't know it then, but Jesus was speaking of a relationship with God's Holy Spirit
- His Spirit, the third part of trinity, is that part of God that dwells in us and empowers us for life and ministry, that part of God that enable to us to be the men and women God has called us to be

And yet so many of us try to live out Christianity in our own strength and we fail and we're thirsty

- We need the good soil of Gods' word
 - We need the refreshing Water of being filled and empowered with His Spirit
 - Coming to Him every day and saying – empty me of me and fill me with more of you!

Thirdly, we need to soak in the sunlight of His presence.

- Just like a tree needs sunlight
 - So I, you, we, all need times in the presence of the Lord
- To sit here at church and just take in of His presence, as we worship, as we pray, as we wait upon the Lord
 - And as we do, as we decide today to make these a priority
- To plant ourselves in God's Word daily

To ask God, “fill me with your Spirit a new and a fresh every day, empower me to be the man or women you have called me to be” - As we decide I don't just want to come to church, I want to come to soak in the sunlight of His presence

Friend, hear me, friend listen – you will bear fruit

- You don't have to strive, you don't have to fret
 - You don't have to figure out how you are going to have victory over that besetting sin
- You need to decide – I am planting myself in God's Word
 - I am daily going to be refreshed in the living water of His Spirit
 - And I am going to decide to spend time taking in His presence

I'm tell you – you will find opportunities to led people to Christ

- You will find holiness being developed
 - You will find you want to give to God and partner with Him

You will find that good works start to dominate who you are

- You will find you enjoy worship and giving God glory
 - You will find the fruit in your life

And like Joseph it will be a blessing to God, to others and yes even to you!

- But we need to decide today to plant ourselves in the good soil of God's word, to be watered by the living water of His Spirit and to soak in the sunlight of His presence in worship
 - And then we will bear fruit, because that is what God has created us to do
 - Amen? Amen! – Let's pray