

Genesis 49:28-50:26 – 19 March 2020

“Characteristics Of The Call”

Introduction

Two men that have been thru a lot; Jacob named Israel and his son Joseph

They’ve seen the great heights joy and great depths of pain that this life has to offer.

Although they wouldn’t have chosen the steps they took in life, they have grown tight w/ the Lord thru the building of their character.

We finish the book of Genesis tonight by looking at the character of these two men.

They have a burning desire to fulfill God’s plan for their lives; to go back to Canaan and inherit all that God has promised for them there.

Tonight, we’ll see 4 characteristics of our calling to live on purpose for God.

1st Characteristic of the Call is Loyalty (Chap 49:28-33)

Read Chap 49:28-33

1. Jacob commanded his children to bury him back in Canaan
 - a. To be close to “my” people & “my” fathers
2. This shows that he truly believed that God would bring his descendants back into Canaan.
3. Def of Loyal – giving **constant** support or allegiance to a person or institution
4. See loyalty involves trust and faith
 - a. He believed God, even when it was really hard to see how God would work it out.
 - b. Read Heb 11:1
5. See loyalty also involves following the truth
 - a. You can’t say you’re loyal to a cause if your actions don’t follow.
 - b. You can’t say you’re loyal to God if you don’t believe He’s telling truth re: His promises.

2nd Characteristic of the Call is Love

(Chap 50:1-13)

Read Chap 50:1-3

1. In chap 49 we saw Joseph, the 2nd most powerful man in Egypt, bowing to his father.
 - a. There are times that we have multiple relationships with a singular person.
 - i. He's my supervisor and brother
 - ii. He's my Sunday School teacher and son
 - b. Joseph always considered Jacob his father to be loved above all!

Read Chap 50:4-6

1. Joseph gets Pharaoh's permission.
2. Jacob "had digged" a grave for himself
 - a. These tombs would have shelf-like graves carved out of the walls inside these caves.

Read Chap 50:7-9

1. Joseph spares no expense for the love he has for his father.
 - a. There is no a greater funeral procession anywhere in the Bible.
2. The “little ones and flocks” stayed behind as reassurance to Pharaoh that they’d be coming back

Read Chap 50:10-13

1. Such love has produced such mourning.
 - a. To the extent that all the people of Canaan recognize how grievous this is.
2. *“If I had not loved, I had not been pained, but because I loved, I have been sustained.” DWS*

3rd Characteristic of the Call is Leniency (Chap 50:14-21)

Read Chap 50:14-18

1. Now that Jacob is dead, Joseph has the right of authority in the family as the selected “firstborn”.
 - a. Joseph is both powerful in Egypt and powerful in the family.
2. The brothers think that Joseph has a deep-seated anger and unforgiveness that he’s just been waiting to get out.
3. Notice the end of vs 17 – Joseph wept when he heard them asking for forgiveness.
 - a. Joseph thought this is already behind them

Read Chap 50:19-21

1. Joseph had already offered them forgiveness, grace and leniency for their wickedness...but they hadn’t received it yet...b/c they didn’t believe he was truly offering it.
2. It’s the same w/ Jesus Christ! (Replace names)

3. Notice whom the sin is against in vs 19
 - a. Joseph declared to Potiphar's wife that if he sinned it would be against God
 - b. Read Psm 51:4 – Against Thee & Thee only
 - c. Read Luk 5:21 – Who can forgive sins but God? They were right.
4. The brothers need to be concerned w/ making things right with God as supreme.
 - a. God is offering them forgiveness...they just need to take it.
5. I believe that b/c Joseph saw God's grace in his own life...
 - a. 2nd in charge of Egypt
 - b. Blessed with a large family
 - c. ...that allowed him to give more easily God's grace to others.
6. Vs 20 – Have leniency and grace for others...God is working out a great, mysterious plan!

4th Characteristic of the Call is Leadership **(Chap 50:22-26)**

Read Chap 50:22-23

1. Joseph was a leader in his home.
2. He wasn't an absentee father
3. Read Prov 22:6
 - a. "Train up" – this is an active verb
4. This speaks to his proactive leadership in the home

Read Chap 50:24-26

1. He led them by communicating God's promises to them.
 - a. "God will surely visit you & bring you out of this land."
2. He led them by taking an oath of them to carry his bones up to the land they will later possess.
 - a. Joseph set the example for them to follow!

Conclusion –

Today we've seen the 4 Characteristics of the calling to live on purpose for God

1. Loyalty

- a. Faithfulness
- b. Trusting to the point of doing something about it

2. Love

- a. Charity
- b. It leaves you vulnerable to pain, but gives the ability to sustain

3. Leniency

- a. Grace and forgiveness
- b. Give it right away and you'll be set free whether the other party receives it or not.

4. Leadership

- a. Active involvement
- b. Tell your family the path that will bring them death & the path that will bring them life!