



How God’s grace changes the way we see & live life.

A LIFE LIKE YOURS AND MINE

Series: *The complicated Life of Jacob* #5 Noah Largent 9/12/15

Hebrews 11:21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

Genesis 48:1-5 Some time later Joseph was told, “Your father is ill.” So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim along with him. ² When Jacob was told, “Your son Joseph has come to you,” Israel rallied his strength and sat up on the bed. ³ Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and there he blessed me ⁴ and said to me, ‘I am going to make you fruitful and increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.’ ⁵ “Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine.

Genesis 48:13-19 ¹³ And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right toward Israel’s left hand and Manasseh on his left toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them close to him. ¹⁴ But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim’s head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh’s head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.

¹⁵Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked faithfully, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, ¹⁶ the Angel who has delivered me from all harm —may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly on the earth.”

¹⁷ When Joseph saw his father placing his right hand on Ephraim’s head he was displeased; so he took hold of his father’s hand to move it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head. ¹⁸ Joseph said to him, “No, my father, this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.” ¹⁹ But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He too will become a people, and he too will become great.

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When the author of the book of Hebrews is using Jacob’s faith as an example, he is pointing out that at the end of Jacob’s life he chooses to act in a way that reflects that he has come to believe that God’s promises to his family are not in jeopardy despite his many poor choices. The fact that Jacob chooses to “worship” shows just how deeply he has come to see God’s grace at work in his life.

1. Grace changes the way Jacob viewed life.

a. **Jacob describes God as having been his shepherd.**

*Jacob is the **first** in a line of significant people in the Bible who comes to characterize their relationship with God using the sheep / Shepherd illustration. Being a shepherd himself, he understands that the life of a sheep depends on having a good shepherd.*

King David, author of Psalm 23 wrote, “The LORD is my shepherd.” Jesus said in John 10:10, “I am the good shepherd...”

b. **Jacob reflects on how “The Angel” intervened to saved him.**

The hebrew word Jacob uses in Genesis 48:16 describing the Angels work on his behalf carries the idea of saving intervention. Jacob has come to see that what God did for him, was something he could not do for himself.

2. Grace changes the way Jacob lived life.

a. **Jacob’s decision to break cultural custom demonstrates his decision making is no longer guided by his own persuasions.**

In choosing not make Egypt his home or the future home of his family and the order that he blesses Joseph’s boys, both demonstrate a faithful commitment to follow Gods plan and not his his own.

Notes:
