

Genesis 48-50 — The Blessing We All Long For

Warm-Up Question:

What did you consider to be the greatest blessings you had as a child?

READ: Genesis 48:1-5, 12-20; 49:28

I. WHAT IS THE BLESSING

- ▶ How do you notice from chapter 48-49 that the blessing is more powerful than a mere feeling or wishful thinking?
- ▶ In the sermon, it was said that the ultimate blessing is when someone of great significance in your life communicates, “I love and delight in you... just as you are.” Discuss how you received that from your parents or gave it to your children either well or not well, whether formally or informally.

II. HOW DO WE GET THE BLESSING

- ▶ Why did Jacob give younger Ephraim the blessing instead of older Manasseh (vs. 14,19)? (Discuss this pattern from all of Genesis)
- ▶ How does God intend to give us his blessing? Does it depend on our performance or merit?
- ▶ Describe in your own words how it affects you to hear God say to you: “I love and delight in you... just as you are... apart from your merit.”

III. THE RESULT OF HAVING THE BLESSING

- ▶ READ 50:15-21. Discuss the different elements of Joseph’s reaction to his brothers. How was it Jesus-like?
- ▶ How did Joseph’s receiving the blessing (49:22-26) give him 1) freedom from self-importance, and 2) freedom to forgive?
- ▶ What fruit do you most want to see as a result of experiencing God’s blessing? Do any of your children need to hear you say “I’m sorry?”

“God bestows His blessings without discrimination. The fathers of Jacob are children of God, and they should manifest the family values by doing good to all, even those who deserve the opposite.”

F.F. Bruce

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

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