



Series: Genesis

Passage: Genesis 49:28- 50:14

Title: Jacob's Burial and Grieving Our Loved Ones

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper, 9/03/2023

Discussion Starter – Grief over the death of a loved one is a proper and powerful response for a child of God. What are similarities and differences between the response of a Christian compared to that of an unbeliever when facing the death of a loved one?

Read Genesis 49:28-33

- 1) What is Jacob's last request of his sons? What does his request reveal to us about his faith in God's covenant?
- 2) What does his request reveal about his confidence in life after death?
 - a) Read Hebrews 11:13. Do you feel like a stranger and pilgrim on the earth? In what ways?
 - b) Read Philippians 3:20. Are you confident in God's promise for your life?

Read Genesis 50:1-14

- 3) Joseph, the believing and faith filled son, expresses extreme grief over the death of his believing father, Jacob. Define the grief that Joseph likely experienced at this time. How does his grief reconcile with the belief in God's promise of eternal life that both Joseph and Jacob held?
- 4) In what ways is grief an appropriate response to the death of a loved one? In what ways can grief grow to an inappropriate level?
- 5) Read 1 Thessalonians 13-18. Describe in your own words the scriptural foundation that provides hope during a time of grief.
- 6) Read Romans 8:38-39 and Psalm 30:5. What has God promised us as believers as we face the death of a loved one, or even our own death?
- 7) Read Isaiah 53:3-4. Jesus was acquainted with grief. What comfort can you gain from knowing we have a Savior that experienced our pains?
- 8) We are created in God's Image. How is our grief a reflection of God's response to death?
- 9) What spiritual truths become more real in your life and faith because of a period of grief? Why do you think spiritual truths can be seen more clearly during times of grief?
 - c) What can you do now to prepare for an inevitable time of grieving the loss of a loved one?
 - d) What have you learned from this message about being a comfort to a friend who is grieving the loss of a loved one?