



Lesson 55

Lesson 55: What Is Faith? (Part 11) Dying Faith of Jacob

Scripture: Hebrews 11:21

A Dying Faith (Hebrews 11:20, 21, 22)

- If one is to DIE in faith, one must LIVE by faith!
- In verses 20, 21, 22 we have three examples of faith in dying:
 - ① ISAAC: dying faith that triumphs over the affections of the flesh
 - ② JACOB: dying faith that overcomes the interference of men
 - ③ JOSEPH: dying faith that desires God more than the riches and honors of the world.

Dying Faith of Jacob (Hebrews 11:21)

- Go to Genesis 48:15ff. – WATCH GOD AT WORK!
- Read Deuteronomy 21:17 for the right of the first-born!
- It was the RIGHT of the first-born to have a double portion blessing and this is what Jacob does for Joseph!
 - Laban tried to rob this blessing by substituting Leah in place of Rachel.
 - Rueben, the first born of Israel, sinned and his birth right was given to Joseph! (See 1 Chronicles 5:1)
 - Jacob declared that Joseph's two sons were HIS! (Genesis 48:5)
 - These two sons were born to a foreign wife and in a foreign land but were not **adopted** into the body of holy seed. See Gen. 48:16.
 - By his blessing he wanted to draw their hearts away from Egypt and towards the people of God.
- **REMEMBER:** This blessing was **“by faith”** — Romans 10:17!
- When Joseph brought his two sons to Jacob he made sure to place Manasseh (the firstborn) before Jacob's right hand and Ephraim, the younger, at Jacob's left hand.

- Read Genesis 48:14 — but what about Deuteronomy 21:17 – read Matt 20:15.
- Jacob bows to the **sovereignty** of God Most High.
- Jacob did not cross his hands *by mistake* but did it *wittingly!!* – **intelligently!**
 - Read v. 10 – Jacob was moving **by faith** because his **sight** was blinded!
 - **NOTE:** “Israel” is doing the blessing – NOT – “Jacob”.
- Jacob acknowledges all the blessings he had received from God! (vv. 15-16) In death, Jacob HONOURS God!! His faith **still** gives testimony! He remembers all the ways that God had led him. (See Deut. 8:2)
- Joseph could have left his sons in Egypt rich and famous men, but he brings them to Jacob for **his** blessing!
- Read Genesis 48:17-19 – Joseph attempts to correct his father’s “mistake”!
- Joseph had HIS PLANS and WISHES. This is an example of our flesh or will of man asserting itself – in itself it **always** opposes God’s plans and wishes.
- **HERE IS THE TEST OF FAITH!!**
 - Joseph is the prime minister of all of Egypt.
 - Joseph is Jacob’s favorite son!
 - Would he bow to his son’s wishes OR LIVE and ACT **by faith - the Word of God.**
- (v. 19) “I **know, I know!**” – this is mark of Jacob’s great faith!!
- By his actions, Jacob showed that he was no longer influenced by the will of men (favorite, powerful, prominent as they may be) but he was **moved** and **directed** by **the word of God.**
- **LESSON:** Living by true faith will some times disappoint the wishes and wills of loved ones!
- His blessing was certainly **by faith — what was sight:**
 - ① These two sons were Egyptian princes!
 - ② Would they ever forsake Egypt – the land of their birth and culture?
 - ③ Would they ever forsake Egypt **for Canaan?**
 - ④ Would they ever become two separate tribes?
 - ⑤ Would the younger be greater than the elder in importance and number?
- **LESSON:** Blessings are according to GOD! Some get more! Some get less!
- Jacob **worshipped** God! (Hebrews 11:21) – in his weakness, weariness of being a pilgrim of the earth and his readiness to **depart** the world!

What Have We Learned?

- ❶ FAITH and REASON always go together! This is NOT what RELIGIONS teach! REASON is a part of faith. **God gives us faith so that we can REASON correctly!!!** Christianity is an INTELLIGENT faith. We ought to be able to say, “I KNOW, I KNOW!” and then intelligently explain why we know.
- ❷ We must acknowledge GOD in this world! Jacob gave testimony about “the God who fed him all his life long . . .”
- ❸ We must live according to the Word of God and NOT be influenced by the philosophy, empty deceit, traditions of men, or the basic principles of the world (Colossians 2:8).
- ❹ God has given us FAITH to overcome the world and all its teachings and influences! (1 John 5:4 – “ours” because it has been given to us!)

