**Family Secrets - Gen 47:29 – 31**

**Focal Truth: Joseph honored his father to the day of his good death**

God’s word tells us – **there is a time to be born & a time to die**

Family life is filled with joys of birth & sorrow in deaths

Jesus promises to those who believe – **a good death** – **faith in Jesus Christ**

Today – we see Joseph honor his father in his old age & Jacob die a good death

**Observations**

1. **God told Jacob he would die in Egypt & Joseph would care for him in his good death 46:2 -4**

*God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, Jacob, Jacob, and he said, Here I am. He said, I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes*

1. Jacob went to Egypt living on God’s promise that he would become a great nation
2. Jacob went to Egypt knowing God was with Him
3. Jacob was promised he would be brought back to promised land at his death
4. Jacob knew that Joseph would care for him in his dying days – 46:4

*Joseph will close your eyes*

1. Jacob lived 17 yrs. with all his children before he died in Egypt – 47:28

Jacob lived 147 yrs.

**Consider**

1. God was with Jacob in his old age as in his young age
2. God’s presence and promises encouraged Jacob in his old age
3. Jacob lived by faith in his old age until his death
4. **Joseph honored his father in his old age until his good death 47:11 -12**
5. Joseph honored his father presenting him to Pharoah 47:7 -10
6. Jacob honored Pharoah
7. Joseph provided for his father in Egypt in his old age 47:11 -12
8. God blessed Jacob in his old age

**Consider**

1. Joseph was not ashamed of his father when he came to Egypt

He was not ashamed of his **appearance** as a shepherd

He was not ashamed of his **age**

He was not ashamed of his **relationship with God**

1. God knows the conditions of our life on earth regardless of our age

Ps. 103:14 – *for He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust*

1. Jesus condemned those who neglected their fathers and mothers

Mk. 7:9 – 13 – *you are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. Moses said, Honor your father and your mother, he who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death, you say, if a man says his father or mother whatever I have that would help you is Corban, that is given to God, you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition*

1. **Joseph honored his father in his good death & burial 47:29 – 31; 49:33 - 50:1**

47:30 – *when I lie down with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place. And he said, I will do as you have said.*

*When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people. Then Joseph fell on his father’s face, and wept over him and kissed him*

1. Jacob made his request to Joseph about his burial
2. Jacob asked for kindness and faithfulness regarding his request for his burial
3. Jacob asked not to be buried in Egypt
4. Jacob worshipped God for his blessings & Joseph’s care

47:31 – *he said, swear to me. So, he swore to him. Then Israel bowed in worship at the head of the bed*

**Consider**

1. Jacob trusted Joseph with his requests about his death & burial
2. Joseph respected his father’s desires about his death & burial
3. **Jacob died a good death 49:33; Heb. 11: 21**
4. Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph
5. Jacob worshipped God – by faith as he prepared to die
6. Jacob believed God’s promise about the promised land
7. Jacob encouraged Joseph about the promises of God in his life

Gen. 48:21 – *then Israel said to Joseph, Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you, and bring you back to the land of your fathers*

Heb. 11:21 – *by faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshipped, leaning on the top of his staff*

**Consider**

1. Jacob modeled how to die a good death – trusting in the promises of God
2. Believer’s death is a precious thing to God

Ps. 116:15 – *precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones*

1. Jesus taught the way to die a good death by trusting in Him

John 11:25 -26 – *Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.*

**Things to Remember and do**

1. Honor your father and mother until the day of their death – Ex 20:12

*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the Lord your God gives you*

1. It is a great sinfulness to dishonor your father and mother especially in old age

Pr. 23:22 – *do not despise your mother when she is old*

Ex. *21:17 – he who curses his father or his mother shall be surely be put to death*

1. Caring for your parents is the Jesus way - John 19:27 – *behold your mother*
2. Dying a good death is putting your trust in Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior

**Are you ready to die? Put your faith is Jesus Christ!**

*I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die – John 11: 25 -26*

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on! Yes says, the Spirit so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them – Rev. 14:13*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**