

BY FAITH JOSEPH GAVE
COMMANDMENT CONCERNING
HIS BONES
HEBREWS 11:22

Text: Hebrews 11:22

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²² By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

Introduction:

We can never know the actions in our life that God may consider important. In this chapter the Holy Spirit selects out of good men's lives the most brilliant instances of their faith.

It's certainly interesting the event that is given of Joseph's that illustrated proof of his faith in God.

The commandment concerning his bones is singled out as being the most illustrious proof of his faith.

This lets me know that we are very poor judges of what God delights most in.

Most likely when we least please ourselves God is best pleased with us.

That prayer the struggled with and thought it was a not heard by God at all, may have touched the heart of God much more that the ones that we pray and feel as if we considered thoroughly successful.

For the preacher, that sermon which is struggled and travailed over and delivered so feebly may have been in God's sight more precious that many a sermons that we congratulate ourselves at such a great delivery.

That trial, which we thought we passed through with so much impatience, may have been before God an exhibition of true patience as he looked deep down into our souls. The tests by which we try ourselves are very inaccurate.

It may be when we read our own biographies in the light of eternity we shall be surprised to notice that God hath highly commended what we wept over, while much that we gloried in will be cast away among the wood hay and stubble.

The Lord seeth not as man seeth, for man looketh at the outward appearance, but God looketh at the heart, and his glance pierces to the core.

It may seem surprising that the charge of Joseph concerning his body should be mentioned as a notable act of faith.

Notice:

1. THE POWER OF FAITH

A. The Power of Faith over Worldly Prosperity

1 Corinthians 1:26

²⁶For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*:

When we read this we often read it like this – not any; instead of not many.

God has selected a few in places of wealth, and power, and influence, which have faith in their hearts.

Our Lord told us that it was “easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven,” but he added, “the things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

Joseph was wealthy, and prominent, yet all this didn't prevent Joseph having faith in God, a faith which was on display even at the end of his life.

So often those who have been given much fail to recognize where the much comes from.

B. The Power of Faith over Death

Genesis 50:24

²⁴ And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Death is a great tester of a man's sincerity.

Men have lived their life thinking all is well until death came calling and then they find themselves then thinking otherwise.

Here we see Joseph clam. He remembers the covenant that God had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and rest upon it, and rejoices in it.

He speaks of dying as thou it were only part of living.

He gives no evidence of fear that distracted him, but his last words to those who have gathered at his deathbed concerning the faithfulness of God and the certainty of His promise.

It's amazing that the one event that has been singled out as the brightest instance of Joseph's faith is in his last hour.

Death didn't dim, but rather brightened the gold in his character.

It's at the end that God reminds us of.

Is it not a tremendous testimony for a Christian to do his very best action at last, being the strongest in divine power when his own weakness would try to prevail.

We should serve the Lord in our youth, in health, in strength, with all our might, but it may be for us like it was for Sampson, our last act may be the greatest.

Many a good individual groans over their entire life, having done all he can it is still unsatisfactory; but possibly the Lord may be intending to give him have his greatest deed be done at death.

2. THE WORKING OF FAITH

Joseph gives commandment concerning his bones.

A. The first fruit of Joseph's faith was that he would not be an Egyptian.

B. The second fruit of Joseph's faith was that is constrained him to have fellowship with the people of God

True faith will make the child of God say, “I am one of God’s people, my soul is joined to them in all conditions.”

You take my bones with you, where you go I will go.

On his death-bed he said, “I die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land.” He also said, “He will bring you to the land which he promised to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Joseph showed his faith in God in declaring his belief in the promise that God had given them.

C. The third fruit of Joseph’s faith is that encouraged the faith of others

No man may be said to have real faith who is not concerned that faith may be found in the hearts of his fellow men.

You say what did Joseph do to encourage the faith of other?

Genesis 50:26

²⁶ So Joseph died, *being* an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

His bones would be continual sermon to the children of Israel.

Every time an Israelite thought about the bones of Joseph, he would think, “We will someday get out of this country.

His bones served as a warning. Maybe it would be a man who was prospering in business, laying up treasures in Egypt, but he would say to himself, “I’ll have to part with all this one day, Joseph’s bones must be carried out of here, and we’ll not be here forever.

His bones would not only serve as a warning but would also serve as an encouragement. When the task masters began to afflict the children of Israel, and increased their load, they would say, Josephs bones will one day be carried out of here, so we will not be under this bondage forever.

D. The forth fruit of Joseph’s faith is his unburied bones showed his willingness to wait on God’s timing for the promise to be fulfilled

3. AN EXAMPLE FOR OUR FAITH

Should we concern ourselves with our death speech?

Oh no.

We should imitate Joseph.

A. Draw our comfort from God’s promises

Job 14:1

¹Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

Close:

This world is not our home, we're just passing through.

We too will be carried out of this place. And when that day comes for us when the Lord takes us home, and those who may mourn over our departure, may our bones preach as did the bones of Joseph, God is faithful.