Date: July 12, 2026
Title: Passing on the Promises of God
Passage: Genesis 48

Summary:
I. Recognizing the importance of honoring your parents (vv. 1-2)
II. Remember God's past faithfulness (v.3-16)
A. God is faithful to His promises
B. God is a good Shepherd
C. God is a Redeemer
III. Pray for your children and bless them - (vv. 5-20)
IV. Trust God's Faithfulness Beyond Your Lifetime (vv.21-22)

Key Truths:

- Genesis 48 reminds us that God's truth has always been passed from one generation to the next through humble listeners and faithful witnesses.
- The burden of respect is not equal between parent and child. The child has the burden to honor their parents more than the parents are to relate to their children.
- God did not have you born into your family haphazardly. Don't build your life that cuts you off from the people God has placed you with to shape your faith.

Application:

- Parents/Grandparents: Focus on leaving behind a great testimony than leaving behind a great inheritance.
- Children/Younger Generation: Don't miss out the blessing to have older people to speak in your life, especially those God has placed around you.
- Church: Be intentional to bridge generations as all are part of the body of Christ.
- Non-believers: Turn to Jesus and believe in Him as your Shepherd. He alone is the source of true wisdom.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What can you leave behind that death cannot take away? How so?
- How have you seen how God is working difficult circumstances in your life for good?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction
Pew Survey:

- 75% of American see caring for an aging parent as their primary responsibility.

Discipleship Gap

- Younger generation perceive they appreciate their parents but don't ask them for wisdom because there's little value.
- Older generation perceive they are intimidated by new technology advances and don't feel they have anything to offer to younger generation so don't engage.

Solution:

- Children should seek wisdom from older generations.
- Parents should be intentional in speaking wise truths to younger generations.

Overview
Genesis 48 reminds us that God's truth has always been passed from one generation to the next through humble listeners and faithful witnesses.

- Jacob is facing his final days on earth. He provides final insights to the younger generation.

Passage:
Genesis 48

EXPOSITION
I. Recognizing the importance of honoring your parents - vv. 1-2
Genesis 48:1-2
After this, Joseph was told, “Behold, your father is ill.” So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. And it was told to Jacob, “Your son Joseph has come to you.” Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed.

Joseph brings his two sons before Jacob:

- Manasseh and Ephraim
    - Teenagers at this age.

Observations of Genesis 48:

- No one speaks back to Jacob.
    - Even though Jacob came from humble beginnings as a shepherd.

    - Even though Manasseh and Ephraim had grown up with their father as the head of Egypt and having all the wealth and status
- All listen to Jacob.

Questions of Reflection:
How is your attitude toward your grandparents?

- Are you treating them in such a way that you want your children to treat you?

How are you treating your parents?

- The first relational commandment of the Ten Commandments is "Honor your father and your mother."

Exodus 20:12
“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

- No caveats. Even if they may do or say things disrespectful, this still speaks to honoring the person(s) for their position in your life.
    - Never cancel them but instead to love them.
        - There may be boundaries as circumstances arise (ex: being married (leave and cleave)) but honor is still to be given.
- The burden of respect is not equal. The child has the burden to honor their parents more than the parents are to relate to their children.

II. Remember God's past faithfulness (v.3-16)
Genesis 48:3-16
And Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.’ And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are. And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance. As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).”
When Israel saw Joseph's sons, he said, “Who are these?” Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons, whom God has given me here.” And he said, “Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them.” Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them. And Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring

also." Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). And he blessed Joseph and said,
"The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

Joseph wants to remind key things:
A. God is faithful to His promises

How has Jacob recognized this?
Genesis 28:20-22
Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

- All through Jacob's life, God has kept His promises. God has proven Himself to be faithful through the years.

B. God is a good Shepherd
Genesis 48:15
And he blessed Joseph and said, "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,

- First reference of God as a shepherd.
- God revealed Himself as the good shepherd to Jacob

C. God is a Redeemer
Genesis 48:16
the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

- "redeemer"
    - Meaning: presupposes an evil where something has been lost and is now bought back/redeemed.
- Jacob sees that even despite the evil, God turned it for good.

Question of Reflection:

- Do you see how God is working difficult circumstances in your life for good?

III. Pray for your children and bless them - vv. 5-20

- Prayer is the key thing we can do to bless our children/younger generation.
- Recognize the power of your words.
    - Don't say things trivially but instead intentionally and with weight.
    - See James 3 (value of our words / tongue)

1 Chronicles 5:1-2
"The oldest son of Israel was Reuben. But since he dishonored his father by sleeping with one of his father's concubines, his birthright was given to the sons of his brother Joseph. For this reason, Reuben is not listed in the genealogical records as the firstborn son. The descendants of Judah became the most powerful tribe and provided a ruler for the nation, but the birthright belonged to Joseph."

IV. Trust God's Faithfulness Beyond Your Lifetime (v.21-22)
Genesis 48:21-22
Then Israel said to Joseph, “Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers. Moreover, I have given to you rather than to your brothers one mountain slope that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow.”

- Message: I am dying but don't be anxious or fret because God will be with you.
- God is present with His people in a covenantal sense when you are aware of His presence.

Question of Reflection:
How can you be fearful of the future when you are reminded that God will be with you?

"The Lord buries His servants, but He never buries His promises." (James Montgomery Boice)

- God is always with us.
- God who is faithful to His people will continue to do so.

Application
To Parents/Grandparents:

- Focus on leaving behind a great testimony than leaving behind a great inheritance.
    - The greatest gift you can leave behind is if you leave behind a great example of how you pursued Christ and love others.

- Don't wait until the younger generation invites you in their lives. Be intentional and engage.
    - Younger generations don't know what they do not know.
- Make yourself available. Offer yourselves to the younger generation.
- God did not place the family in your life haphazardly.
    - God has sovereignly put your circumstances in your life for a reason.
        - Be intentional
        - Be engaged
        - Be available
- What makes a lasting, eternal difference is your influence in your life (not wealth).

<u>To Children/Younger Generation:</u>

- Don't miss out the blessing to have older people to speak in your life, especially those God has placed around you.
- God did not have you born into your family haphazardly.
- Don't build your life that cuts you off from the people God intends to use to shape your faith.

<u>To Whole Church:</u>

- We must intentionally bridge generations.
- You need one another.
- Saying in Romania: "If you don't have older people in your life, go buy some"
    - In other words: invest your time and resources to be engaged with other generations.

<u>To Those Who Don't Know Christ:</u>

- If you don't know God has a shepherd, don't shepherd yourself or rely on your own wisdom.
    - Acknowledge God and His ways.
    - Turn to Jesus as your Savior.

<u>Acts 16:31</u>
And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Question: What can you leave behind that death cannot take away?