

Date: July 26, 2026

Title: The Consequences of Sin, and the Triumph of Grace

Passage: Genesis 49

Summary:

I. Consequences of Sin (v. 1-7)

II. Triumph of Grace (v. 8-27)

Key Truths:

- Genesis 49 reflects not only blessings but also the consequences of sins of the forefathers.
- Your life can impact generations to come. Don't underestimate the power of your walk and your faithfulness to the Lord.
- Our sin rarely stops with us. Our lives are never lived in isolation.
- Every decision we make is writing a legacy that we leave here. The decisions you make today will influence people you may never ever meet.
- Decisions you make can last through generations. Think through your choices.
- In Christ, there is forgiveness for sin but that does not erase all consequences and adverse effects. Grace doesn't erase every consequence but provides a new direction.

Application Points:

- Sin leaves a legacy.
- Grace can change your legacy.

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?
- When a wrong has occurred, have you taken responsibility for the things you have done? Have you asked for forgiveness?
- What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind? What kind of actions steps will you do now going forward?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

Today's passage speaks to the importance of one's legacy.

- Your life can impact generations to come.
- Don't underestimate the power of your walk and your faithfulness to the Lord.

- Not perfect but a faithful life.
 - It can lead and leave a legacy of faith for generations after you.

Genesis 49

This reflects not only blessings but also consequences of sins of the forefathers.

EXPOSITION

I. CONSEQUENCES OF SIN (v.1-7)

Genesis 49:1-2

Then Jacob called his sons and said, “Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.

“Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father.

that I may tell you what shall happen to you in days to come.

- This is the first account of a prophet in the Bible.
 - First time of referring to words to what will happen to someone in the Bible.
 - This is a descriptive passage: describing what will happen to Jacob's children.
 - Not prescriptive as to what we should do.

Verses 3-7

- Children from his wife, Leah

Genesis 49:3-4

“Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, and the firstfruits of my strength, preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power. Unstable as water, you shall not have preeminence, because you went up to your father's bed; then you defiled it—he went up to my couch!

- As the firstborn, Reuben had the right to a double-portion of the father's inheritance.
 - But in verse 4, this inheritance will not occur.
 - Why? Genesis 35:22 (Reuben slept with his father's concubine)

“Unstable as water”

- Pointed to how Reuben followed his feelings rather than principles.
- Genesis 35: Incident of Reuben and concubine was mentioned briefly.
 - But it was a moment of foolishness with lasting consequences.
 - This cost Reuben a lot: firstborn right, inheritance, stain of his legacy and on his descendants.

Application:

- Likewise, certain sins will cost you a lot especially sexual sins such as adultery.

Proverbs 6:27-29

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.

Proverbs 6:32-33

He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself. He will get wounds and dishonor, and his disgrace will not be wiped away.

- Why? Broken trust and disgrace will always remain even after there is forgiveness.
 - Never a situation where "everyone just moves on."
- In Christ, there is forgiveness and grace but there is also disqualification.
 - Ex: Sexual sin will disqualify one from serving as an elder or deacon.
- In Christ, forgiveness may be received but real consequences may remain.

Jeremiah 5:25

Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have kept good from you.

Genesis 49:5-7

"Simeon and Levi are brothers; weapons of violence are their swords. Let my soul come not into their council; O my glory, be not joined to their company. For in their anger they killed men, and in their willfulness they hamstrung oxen. Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce, and their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel."

- Refers to an incident in Genesis 34 (after their sister has been sexually assaulted, Simeon and Levi went on their own and killed everyone in the city; complete act of violence)
- The result?
 - No inheritance and dispersion.
 - (*"I will divide them in Jacob and scatter them in Israel."*)
- Key point: Forgiven sin can still leave lasting earthly consequences.

II. Triumph of Grace (v. 8-27)

Judah

- First, he was a sinful man
 - Genesis 37: he was the one who came up with the idea of selling Joseph to slavery

Genesis 37:26-27

Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him.

- But Judah experienced God's forgiveness and gift of repentance.
 - Genesis 38: he had turned and recognized he was not righteous and repented.

Genesis 38:26

Then Judah identified them and said, “She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah.” And he did not know her again.

- Genesis 44: he was willing to surrender his life for Benjamin. He was willing to die for his brother.

Genesis 44:33

Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers.

- How was Judah transformed?
 - by the grace of God.

Genesis 49:8-12

“Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up.

He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

- Judah receives so much.
- Why? Genuine repentance goes a long way.
- Question of reflection:
 - Do you take responsibility for the things you have done?
 - Have you asked for forgiveness?

Result?

your brothers shall praise you

- Judah and his descendants will receive praise.
 - David as king would receive praise
 - Solomon as king would receive praise.
 - Jesus as one of descendants would receive praise as entered Jerusalem and would receive praise forever.

your father's sons shall bow down before you

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

- Judah and his descendants will receive preeminence.
 - Preeminence would continue through Judah's descendants, culminating to Jesus.

Matthew 1:1-2 (The Genealogy of Jesus Christ)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

- Jesus was from the tribe of Judah.

He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him?

- Lion: Symbol of authority and power
- Likewise, Jesus (descendant of Judah) is a great example of not only of grace but also of power.

Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

- Judah and his descendants will be prosperous
 - "he has washed his garments in wine" = wealthy
 - "His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk." = healthy
- They will receive the blessings of God.
 - Likewise, Jesus offers spiritual blessings.
- Jesus' first miracle: turns water into wine.
 - Relates back to these verses.
- Among Jesus first temptations: Satan tempts him to bow down in submission and receive all the earthly kingdoms.
 - But Jesus already is sovereign over all the nations.

Thereafter in verses 13-27, Jacob blesses the remainder of the sons.

- Key point: Once grace establishes the king, everyone else finds their place.

APPLICATION POINTS

I. Sin leaves a legacy

- Our sin rarely stops with us.
- Our lives are never lived in isolation.
- Every decision we make is writing a legacy that we leave here.
- The decisions you make today will influence people you may never ever meet.
- Decisions you make can last through generations. Think through your choices.
- There is forgiveness for sin but does not erase consequences and effects.
- What kind of legacy will this leave behind?

II. Grace can change your legacy.

- What if you have already made bad choices which you wish you could have undone?
 - By God's grace, you can write a different tomorrow.
 - Grace doesn't erase every consequence but provides a new direction.

Question: What legacy will you leave behind?