

Date: August 2, 2026
Title: Grieving with Hope
Passage: Genesis 49:29 - 50:14

Summary:

- I. Hope enables us to face death with peace (49:28-33)
- II. The Believer's death still brings real sorrow (50:1-11)

Key Truths:

- We are to face death honestly so we can face it with hope.
- Death is still an enemy but, in Christ, we do not grieve without hope but grieve honestly and with hope.
- As Jacob prepared instructions upon his death, we likewise should think things through and have our things in order in the event of our death.
- For Christians, there is assurance that death is just a "comma" in their story, not a "period." When a Christian dies, we are not "lost." We know where they will be: in the presence of the Lord.
- Faith does not eliminate grief - it actually gives us hope in the midst of grief.
- Biblical hope gently lifts our eyes beyond the grave to the promises of God. The pain is real, but it is not the whole story.
- The Christian's greatest comfort is not that time heals all wounds. Time may soften grief, but it cannot conquer death. Our hope rests in something far greater: God's unchanging promises, secured through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Application:

- If you are a believer who is still grieving due to the loss of a dear one, don't feel guilty for your tears.
- If you are not a believer, death remains your final enemy.

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 next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

A culture can be understood how they responded to death

- Prior view: accept death as inevitable.

- Then the Gospel of Jesus Christ: Good news of hope. Christ has resurrected from the dead. There is now hope in life and death.
- Today view: people tend to deny death.
 - Why?
 - Distractions to be too busy to be thinking about it.
 - Distance ourselves. Avoid thinking about it altogether.
 - Failed to be prepared for death.
 - Many churches focus on how to improve one's present life.
 - But the Bible repeatedly points to death:
 - Moses: number our days
 - Ecclesiastes: better to be in house of mourning.
 - Jesus: teaches about heaven and hell

Bible truths:

- We are to face death honestly so we can face it with hope.
- Death is still an enemy but we do not grieve without hope but grieve honestly and with hope.

EXPOSITION

I. Hope enables us to face death with peace (49:28-33)

Genesis 49:29 - 33

Then he commanded them and said to them, “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah—the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites.” When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

A. Jacob made plans

- Jacob gives his final instructions regarding his burial and reminds people of God's promises to his forefather Abraham.
- He faced reality that he wouldn't live forever.

Application:

- Likewise, we should think things through and have our things in order in the event of our death.
- Ex: Have a "Just in case" file in the event of your death.

- Place where keep passwords, accounts, and relevant information.
- Prepare a will and trust regarding your financial assets.

B. Jacob mentions the covenant that God made with his forefather Abraham.

- Jacob gave detailed instructions as to where the cave to be buried, which pointed to property bought in the Promised Land by God.
- Through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God wanted to build a people to bless all the nations.
 - Jacob's desire to be buried there was an act of faith in God's promises.
 - Reflected that Canaan, not Egypt, was their home.

C. Jacob's manner of death

"When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people."

- The peace that Jacob has through his death is remarkable.
 - How? He is confident that God will be with him even after he closes his eyes for the last time.
 - He believes that God will take care of him. God is the God of the living, not of the death.
- There is assurance that death is just a "comma" in their story, not a "period."
- When a Christian dies, we are not "lost." We know where they will be: in the presence of the Lord.

II. The Believer's death still brings real sorrow (50:1-11)

Genesis 50:1-11

Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him. And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, 'My father made me swear, saying, "I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me." Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.'"

And Pharaoh answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear." So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen.

And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen. It was a very great company. When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days.

When the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning on the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians." Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan.

Faith does not eliminate grief - it actually gives us hope in the midst of grief.

- Grieving is a normal and natural response in the event of a death.
 - it is not to be ignored or rushed through.
- Here, Joseph grieved deeply and openly.
 - This was not reflecting lack of faith but rather reflecting his love for his father.
- Funerals or graveside services are necessary as it is for your soul as you grieve for a loved one.

Joseph's demonstration of grief was a testimony to others

- He grieved deeply but he also buried his father in the Promised Land reflecting hope in the future as promised by God.

Parallel: Moses

- He would approach the Pharaoh to have the people leave and worship God. yet Pharaoh refused.
- Compare: Joseph went to Pharaoh who allowed him to leave to bury his father and have others go with him.
 - This reflected the differences of the Pharaoh's hearts.

III. Hope keeps our eyes on God's promises (50:12-14)

Genesis 50:12-14

Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them, for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

- Joseph later gave instructions that he wanted his bones to be carried to where his father was buried.
 - This pointed forward to God's promises.

Grief has a way of narrowing our vision until all we can see is the empty chair, the silent phone, or the place where someone used to sit. But Biblical hope gently lifts our eyes beyond the grave to the promises of God. The pain is real, but it is not the whole story.

- Joseph grieved for his father's death but he also reflected believe

The Christian's greatest comfort is not that time heals all wounds. Time may soften grief, but it cannot conquer death. Our hope rests in something far greater: God's unchanging promises, secured through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Elizabeth Elliott

- The first step forward is to remember who God is. He is unshaken.

Psalms 46:10

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

- God's character and His promises never change.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

- We do grieve but grieve with hope.
- Our hope is in the resurrection - one day we will see Jesus Christ.
- For every believer, every cemetery is really a waiting room for the resurrection.

Application Points

If you are a believer who is still grieving due to the loss of a dear one, don't feel guilty for your tears.

- Grieve honestly but don't lose sight of God's promises.
- The same God who walked Joseph through death is the same God who will walk with you.
- Hold onto God's promises until your grief will turn into joy.

If you are not a believer, death remains your final enemy.

- You will be resurrected one day not for life eternal but for divine judgment.

- You are not meant to live forever here in this world.
- You need to put your life in order - first in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.