

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** God's Presence in the Hour of Death

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Genesis 50:22-26

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2250

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Man is the only creature who knows that he is going to die, and he is desperately trying to forget it.
- b) The fear of death keeps people in bondage.
  - i) Hebrews 2:14-15
  - ii) Jesus came to deliver us who, through fear of death, spend our lives in bondage.
  - iii) We are not ready to live until we are no longer afraid to die.
  - iv) Jesus came to deliver us from that bondage of fear.
- c) A child of God can smile at death.
  - i) This is what Joseph did.
- d) Joseph was a great man, but he still died.
  - i) The only possible exception to death is the second coming of the Lord Jesus; if Jesus comes before we die.
- e) Genesis 50:22-26
  - i) Joseph told his family that he was going to die and that God was going to visit them and take them out of Egypt.
  - ii) Joseph told them to take his bones with them into Canaan.
- f) 25% of the book of Genesis is about the life of Joseph.
  - i) Out of everything included in the book of Genesis on the life of Joseph, the New Testament commented on one thing: that he wanted his family to carry his bones with them.
    - (1) Hebrews 11:22
      - (a) Joseph, by faith, reminded the children of Israel that they were leaving Egypt and going to Canaan.
- g) Joseph was still practicing the presence of God in the time of death.
- h) There are three main points we find in this passage in Genesis that will help us practice the presence of God in the time of death.

2) REMEMBER THE UNBREAKABLE PROMISES OF GOD (GENESIS 50:24)

- a) We won't have any peace at the time of death unless we have promises to stand on.
- b) It was by faith that Joseph mentioned leaving Egypt and by faith that he told them to take his bones with them.
  - i) Hebrews 11:22
  - ii) Joseph had the Word of God.
    - (1) Romans 10:17
    - (2) More than 300 years prior to Joseph's statements, God had made a promise to Abraham.
      - (a) Joseph knew of this promise.
        - (i) Genesis 15:13-14
      - iii) Joseph's faith was rooted in an unshakeable, unbreakable promise of God.
- c) There is no possible way we can practice the presence of God in the time of death without faith.

- i) What is faith?
    - (1) Faith is not positive thinking.
    - (2) Faith is not following a hunch.
    - (3) Faith is not hoping for the best.
    - (4) Faith is not a feeling of optimism.
    - (5) Faith is not self-confidence.
    - (6) Faith is getting a word from God and believing it.
  - ii) Hebrews 11:1
    - (1) The word “hope” does not mean “maybe so” or “perhaps so;” hope in the Bible means rock-ribbed assurance based on the Word of God.
      - (a) The second coming of Jesus is called the blessed hope.
        - (i) This does not mean a blessed maybe or a blessed perhaps; it means absolute assurance based on the Word of God.
  - iii) Faith is the substance of the absolute assurance based on the Word of God.
    - (1) God made a promise to Abraham, and God cannot lie.
    - (2) Joseph, in the time of death, could smile at death because he had the unbreakable promise of God.
  - iv) Faith is not naming it and claiming it.
    - (1) You cannot claim it until God names it.
  - v) Faith is standing on the promises of God.
  - d) Joseph had much faith because he had soaked his soul in the Word of God.
  - e) Genesis 50:24
    - i) God took an oath.
    - ii) God cannot lie.
- 3) REST IN THE UNSHAKEABLE POWER OF GOD (GENESIS 50:24)
- a) The promises without the power mean nothing.
  - b) Genesis 50:24
    - i) Joseph could be so sure because God is the Almighty God.
  - c) Faith is not shaken by appearances or reason.
    - i) At the time Joseph quoted the promise that God had made, there was no reason, based on appearances, for them to think of ever leaving Egypt.
      - (1) Joseph was the prime minister in Egypt.
      - (2) There was no famine in Egypt, and they were in a place of privileged position.
    - ii) We should never take any promise of God and parade it past the judgment bar of our reason.
      - (1) We should not re-examine the Word of God in the light of present-day circumstances.
    - iii) Joseph’s faith was unshaken in the face of human reasoning.
  - d) Faith is not shaken by emotion.
    - i) Emotions don’t really matter when it comes to God’s Word.
      - (1) In today’s passage, nothing is said about Joseph’s emotions.

- ii) Feelings come and go, and they can be deceiving.
    - (1) The Bible is the Word of God; nothing else is worth believing.
  - iii) Do not take counsel with your emotions as to whether or not a promise of God is true.
    - (1) Emotions are the shallowest part of our nature; salvation is the deepest work of God.
      - (a) God does not do the deepest work in the shallowest part.
  - iv) The Bible does not have much to say about our feelings.
  - v) We need to place our confidence in the unshakable power of God and not in our reasoning or emotions.
  - vi) John 5:24
  - vii) It is the Word of God and not our feelings that gives assurance.
  - e) Faith is not shaken by delay.
    - i) The promise that Joseph was standing on was 300 years old.
      - (1) It would still be centuries yet before the children of Israel would leave Egypt.
    - ii) Faith can wait.
      - (1) Habakkuk 2:3
    - iii) Ezekiel 26:3, 12-14
      - (1) God made a prophecy concerning the ancient nation of Tyre.
      - (2) Though it looked like the prophecy was not going to be fulfilled literally, hundreds of years later it was fulfilled.
    - iv) Joseph did not try to allegorize the Scriptures.
    - v) When God says He is going to do something, He is going to do it and do it literally.
    - vi) Many people missed the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ because they tried to explain it away.
      - (1) When the Bible said that He would be born of a virgin, He was.
      - (2) When the Bible said that He would be born in Bethlehem, He was.
      - (3) Jesus' second coming will be just that real.
    - vii) Delays mean nothing.
      - (1) Many people question why the Lord Jesus hasn't yet returned.
        - (a) The Bible addresses this very thing.
          - (i) 2 Peter 3:4
          - (b) But the day of the Lord will come.
            - (i) 2 Peter 3:10
            - (c) 2 Peter 3:8
  - f) What God says He will do, He will do.
- 4) RECEIVE THE UNMISTAKABLE PEACE OF GOD (EXODUS 13:19)
- a) Joseph's faith was rewarded.
    - i) Moses took Joseph's bones with him out of Egypt.
      - (1) Exodus 13:19

- ii) Moses did not get to go all the way into Canaan, so Joshua finished the task and took Joseph's bones into the promised land.
  - (1) Joshua 24:32
    - (a) Shechem is where Abraham was buried.
    - (b) Just as Joseph had faith to believe, it was done.
  - iii) It always happens as God promises that it will happen.
- b) It was important to Joseph that the children of Israel take his bones with them out of Egypt because Joseph wanted to be a part of what God was doing.
  - i) Joseph was a wealthy man and could have had a monument built for him in Egypt, but he instead built a monument of faith.
    - (1) He had wealth, and God could trust him with it.
  - ii) Many people live for this world, but Joseph wanted to be a part of what God was doing.
    - (1) All of the success of Egypt meant nothing to Joseph; he wanted to leave a monument of faith.
      - (a) It's possible that Joseph knew that God was not finished with his bones.
  - c) There will be a great getting-up morning one day.
    - i) Daniel 12:2
    - ii) John 5:28-29
  - d) Joseph knew that one day, the voice of the Son of God is going to speak, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
    - i) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
  - e) When we know the Lord and know the unbreakable promises of God and the unshakeable power of God, we will then experience the undeniable peace of God when it comes time to die.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) Joseph left a legacy to his brothers.
  - i) Every time they saw the coffin containing Joseph's bones, they were reminded of the brevity of life and the length of eternity.
  - ii) If they were living in prosperity, those bones reminded them that they would have to leave it all one day.
  - iii) If they were living in adversity, those bones reminded them that there is a better day coming.
- b) 2 Corinthians 6:2
- c) Proverbs 27:1
- d) Every coffin and every funeral that we see are reminders to us that today is the day of salvation.
- e) When we give our hearts to the Lord Jesus, then we can smile at death.
  - i) Have you given your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ?
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.

- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16