**Getting Ready to Say Goodbye
God Meant it for Good- A study of the life of Joseph- (Part 18)**
(Pastor John Mulligan)

**Genesis 47:27-31—48:1-22 (ESV)**

**1) He looked forward with God’s peace**

Genesis 47:27-31 ESV

Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly. (28) And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years. (29) And when the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If now I have found favor in your sight, put your hand under my thigh and promise to deal kindly and truly with me. Do not bury me in Egypt, (30) but let me lie with my fathers. Carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place." He answered, "I will do as you have said." (31) And he said, "Swear to me"; and he swore to him. Then Israel bowed himself upon the head of his bed.

**2) He looked backward at God’s promise**

Genesis 48:1-6 ESV

After this, Joseph was told, "Behold, your father is ill." So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. (2) And it was told to Jacob, "Your son Joseph has come to you." Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed. (3) And Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me, (4) 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.' (5) 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. (6) And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

Genesis 28:13-19 ESV

And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. (14) Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. (15) Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." (16) Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it." (17) And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." (18) So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. (19) He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

**3) He looked upward with gratitude at God’s graciousness**

1. **God gave him the love of his life**

Genesis 48:7 ESV

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)."

1. **God gave him back the son that he had lost.**

Genesis 48:11-14 ESV

And Israel said to Joseph, "I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also." (12) Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth. (13) 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. (14) 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).

1. **God gave him guidance throughout his days.**

Genesis 48:15 ESV

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,

1. **God gave him a second chance during mid-life**

Genesis 48:16 ESV

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."

Genesis 32:24-30 ESV

And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. (25) When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. (26) Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." (27) And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." (28) Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." (29) Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. (30) So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

**4) He looked forward with assurance of God’s faithfulness**

Genesis 48:17-22 ESV

When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. (18) And Joseph said to his father, "Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head." (19) But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations." (20) So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying, 'God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.'" Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh. (21) 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. (22) 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."

**Closing Scripture:**

John 14:1-6 ESV

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (2) In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (4) And you know the way to where I am going." (5) Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.