

TAKEAWAY



Joseph and the Triumph of Grace: Part 7

Genesis 49v1-28

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- To see that human nature has always been messy, and that God brings blessings to all of us - though more blessings are found in Jesus than elsewhere.
- To consider how we live in light of the blessings God gives us.

INTRODUCTION

Joseph's life is one of huge ups and downs; fallouts, faith and forgiveness. In this week's passage, we see how Joseph's father, Jacob, spoke to his 12 sons on his deathbed, and how his insights into human nature and the coming deliverance of God are relevant to us today.

SHARE

Words are powerful. What words would you love to hear someone say to you?

READ

Genesis 49v1-28

EXPLAIN

Jacob was about to die, and he knew it. In the final days of his life, he spoke poetically and prophetically over the lives of his 12 sons. He doesn't pull any punches, he knows what they are like and says so! On Sunday, Matt said that the central thought of Jacob's poetic speech is the line '*I look for your deliverance, Lord*'. Either side of that, Jacob spends most time speaking of his sons Judah and Joseph. Judah was not a good man - he did a lot of bad things. Joseph, though imperfect, did a lot of good, and his life has many deliberate parallels with Jesus. We see that while Judah is a picture of the redeemed 'every man', Joseph is a picture of the redeeming 'God-man.'

DISCUSS

Why is it important that Jacob speaks hard truths to his sons about the trajectories of their lives? Is this in itself a blessing?

How has God blessed you in this life? What do you particularly appreciate?

In which areas of life do you long for God's deliverance - struggling to see a resolution?

How have you been affected by the life choices of those who have come before you?

How do you think your own life choices will affect those of the people that come after us? What do you *hope* will happen?

What blessings do you believe await you as a follower of Jesus (but may not be fully realised yet)?

What effect does pondering on these blessings have on how you live right now?

PRAY

What has emerged from your discussion that would be worth praying into?

TRY OUT

This week, try to notice where you do or think things that are influenced by those that raised you - are these things that are good to embrace or would be best changed? You could even ask someone you live with or know well to feed back to you! If you can spot a few, report back next week.