

GENESIS

God's unveiling plan of Redemption and Blessing

Death-defying Faith (Genesis 50:1-14)

READ Gen 50:1-14 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig's [sermon](#).

After blessing each of his sons prophetically, Jacob gave clear instructions that he be buried with his fathers in the cave at Machpelah in Canaan. Then he “breathed his last and was gathered to his people” (49:33). In obedience, Joseph had his father embalmed for the long journey to Canaan, while all Egypt mourned Jacob as though he were a king. Jacob was honoured by Egyptian officials and family alike, and his burial in Canaan stood as a powerful and lasting testimony of his faith.

Main Lesson: The resurrection enables Christians to face death with unwavering hope and to grieve without despair.

Questions:

1. In what ways does modern Western culture display a “death-denying” attitude to mortality? Do you see any similarities in your response to death and ageing?
2. Some say that death is a natural part of life. How is death a natural part of life while at the same time being an unnatural intruder? See Gen 2:17; Rom 5:12.
3. What does Joseph's response to Jacob's death teach us about grief (v. 1)? See also John 11:35 and Acts 8:2.
4. How have you coped with grief when you have experienced loss?

5. How can Christians grieve deeply without grieving “as others do who have no hope” according to 1 Thessalonians 4:13–14? How does Jesus' resurrection change the way Christians grieve? See 1 Cor 15:55; 2 Cor 5:8.
6. What are some ways Christians communicate the mistaken notion that “to show grief is not spiritual”? When does grief become excessive?
7. Why was Jacob's request to be buried in Canaan an expression of faith in God's promises? Also, what does Joseph's instruction about his own bones reveal about his faith in God's future promises (50:24-25)? See Heb 11:16.
8. How was Jacob honoured in his death and was he worthy of such honour? Why/why not?
9. Does someone have to deserve honour before we give it to them? Consider how Christ honoured his people and how this should inform how we treat others from Phil 2:3, 5-7.
10. What do you say to someone whose loved one has just died without knowing Christ? How do you share hope in that situation?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: the God of life, who bestows life upon all who come to Him in true faith

Thank: the Lord Jesus for destroying the last enemy, death, to bring us life

Pray: that we would have wisdom & compassion to come alongside those who grieve