

August 21, 2016

“Faith In The Promise(s)”

Genesis 49:29-50:14

What’s Going On?

- Why all these verses on the death and burial of Jacob?!?!?
- “Bury me in the cave of Mechpelah” is a moment of profound faith.

Review: The Joseph Story...

1. Unexpected Faith

- Jacob is a man of faith but he is not a man of consistent / ongoing faith. He is a “deceiver.”
- Joseph is a hero. Jacob is a rascal
 - Joseph is an example, Jacob a bad example.
 - Joseph is like Jesus, Jacob is like us.

2. Foolish Faith

- Why this long burial journey? Doesn’t make a lot of sense.
- **God made a promise!:**

“To your offspring **I will give this land [earth]**” (Genesis 12:7).

“Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for **I am giving it to you**” (Genesis 13:17).

“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. **I will give you and your descendants the land** on which you are lying” (Genesis 28:13).

- Like Abraham, Jacob's request shows him to be the flow of the story of God's promise.

3. Specific Faith

- Why this particular cave, this particular location?
- The Cave of Mechpelah becomes the beachhead, foretaste or "trailer" pointing to the bigger and better reality.
- Is there a hint of resurrection in Jacob's act of faith?

"[Jesus] then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31)

Responding In Faith To The Promises Of God:

- Coming to faith in Jesus Christ...
- Christian community...
- Reading the Bible...
- Longing for the land...
- Generosity...
- Etc...