

## Faithful to the End Pt. 2

Genesis 50:22-26, Sunday AM, August 27, 2023

**Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 50:22–26** Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father’s household, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. <sup>23</sup> Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim’s sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph’s knees. <sup>24</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.” <sup>25</sup> Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here.” <sup>26</sup> So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

These are Joseph’s last recorded words. These are also the last words in the book of Genesis—the book of beginnings. And right in the middle of this account and in these last words are snapshots of faithfulness. There are many pieces we are missing from Joseph’s 110 years, but what we do see shows a faithfulness that flourishes. Are you faithful? Do you value faithfulness? Are you flourishing? What is the source of that flourishing? For the Christian, God alone is the source of life, of growth. God heals, restores, brings justice in His time. God delivers. When faithfulness sourced in God flourishes, it shines a light on His glory. How, because what is needed to trust God’s eternal word in a world that does not yield to God comes from God. What is needed to obey that word when it does not seem to bring desired results comes from God. What is needed to see God’s provision to live for the kingdom of God, pleasing the King comes from God. When we follow His words back to God Himself and see His gracious and sufficient work on our behalf, it elicits praise from those He has redeemed. Church, worship God, our gracious deliverer and sustainer. Do you need a focal point for this grace. Praise God for all He has given us in Jesus Christ.

### \*Hymn #106: Praise Him! Praise Him!

Joseph showed trust in God by living in the word of God—present and future. That meant many things that didn’t make sense—even getting him into trouble like his dreams. But those dreams were not forgotten—solidifying Joseph’s trust in God’s plan later. Much took place while waiting for more understanding of God’s plans and care including in the work of forgiveness. Far more than reconciling with his brothers, he learned injustices were under the hand of God—freeing him from being a victim of another’s injustice. From this secure position, he testified of God’s love and providence to his brothers. <sup>20</sup> “As for you, you meant evil against me, *but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.* God’s word took him not only through the unthinkable and long periods of unknown, but also with confidence into the unknowns of the future. “*I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.*” This living in God’s Words for the present and future is the life of those born again. The Spirit lifts up the words of God so we live for Him now, through pleasant or pain. Are you born again? Then sing simple trust as your lifeline. If you are not born again, if not sure, head toward the heart, the words of this song and please feel free to speak to me or another who trusts Christ after the service.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): With Simple Faith

**\*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D Scripture: Hebrews 11:1–40** Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> For by it the men of old gained approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand

that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. <sup>4</sup> By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks. <sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. <sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, being warned *by God* about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. <sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign *land*, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; <sup>10</sup> for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, *as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.* <sup>13</sup> All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> And indeed if they had been thinking of that *country* from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them. <sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*; <sup>18</sup> *it was he* to whom it was said, “IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.” <sup>19</sup> He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type. <sup>20</sup> By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come. <sup>21</sup> By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning on* the top of his staff. <sup>22</sup> By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones. <sup>23</sup> By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s edict. <sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, <sup>25</sup> choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, <sup>26</sup> considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. <sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. <sup>28</sup> By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them. <sup>29</sup> By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though *they were passing* through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace. <sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed *acts of* righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; <sup>36</sup> and others experienced mockings and scourings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated <sup>38</sup> (*men of whom the world was not worthy*), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup> And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

### Offering: \*Doxology:

Swear to me that you heard me that God will visit you/care for you and bring you up from here, and WHEN IT HAPPENS, you will take my bones with you to land He promised. The last song dealt with simple faith for salvation. That same disposition required to live for God—look to God for deliverance, for direction, for provision to wait for next part of His redemption, to carry out His redemption, to call others to trust His word. This is what we heard in the hall of faith. Men and women whose deeds of faith came from the direction of their gaze. Where are you gazing for life, direction, and for provision? You have words of God and His works on behalf of others. You have examples of those who trusted His Word. Live the same way. Sing Spirit-led, God pleasing focus and hope which will end with God-glorifying action.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Yet Not I but through Christ in Me

**Message: Faithful to the End Pt. 2 Genesis 50:22-26**

### \*Hymn #538: When I Can Read My Title Clear

### Prayer