"A Separate & Faithful People"

Genesis 47

SETTLING AS SOJOURNERS IN EGYPT

1. LIVE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT LIVES FROM EGYPT AND THE WORLD. Our call to be HOLY. v.1-6

- Joseph planned for his brothers and their families to live in Goshen. **v.1, 4, 6**
  -Goshen was on the eastern border of Egypt – it provided a way of escape if they became threatened.
  -Goshen was good land for raising livestock. It was "the best of the land." **v.6**
- Joseph prepared his brothers before their conversation with Pharaoh: be clear that you are shepherds!
  -Shepherds were an abomination to the Egyptians. Ref. 46:33-34

→ Christ calls us to be in the world, but not of the world. John 17:14-17: I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. **15** My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. **16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. **17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

→ Application: Orienting your life and the life of your family around ultimate priorities.

2. PROCLAIM HIM BEFORE EGYPT AND THE WORLD. Our call to be HONEST and BOLD. v. 7-12

- Joseph brought his father Jacob—and he stood before Pharaoh! **v.7**
- Jacob blessed Pharaoh. v.7, 10
- Jacob spoke honestly about his life. v. 8-9
  -130 years – but not as long as my fathers. Abraham (175 years - 25:7) & Isaac (180 years - 35:28)

→ Speak the truth and blessings that come through Yahweh.

- 2 Cor. 5:20: Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
- There is no God but Yahweh—and Jesus is His Son.

3. BLESS THE WORLD THROUGH FAITHFUL SERVICE. Our call to be DILIGENT. v. 13-26

→ We are called to be faithful and fruitful in a dying culture. Ref. John 15:4,5,16

- Joseph carefully and wisely managed Egypt's affairs during the most difficult years of the famine.
  -All of Egypt & Canaan (3 X's) ran out of money to buy grain. **v.13-15**
  -So Joseph offered grain in exchange for their livestock. **v.16-17** "he supplied them" – used of a shepherd
  -When they ran out of livestock, they offered their land and their servitude. **v.18-19**
- Joseph provided seed for planting—and required 20% of the harvest be given to Pharaoh. **v.20-26**
- Christ calls Christians to seek the welfare of the cities and nations in which we live. **Jer. 29:4-7**

4. STAY ANCHORED TO YOUR TRUE HOME. Our call to KEEP ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE. v.27-31

- They settled in the land of Egypt—in Goshen—as sojourners.
- But Jacob was clear: "Do not bury me in Egypt!" Carry my body back to Canaan—the Promised Land.
- Jacob demonstrated his faith in God's promises to him and his offspring.
- Jacob demonstrated his faith in God's ultimate plan—to bring One through his line who would defeat evil.

Five marks of pagan societies:

1) Superstitious
2) Barbaric conduct (disregard for human life, especially children… then elderly, then women…)
3) Intelligence is seen as irrational
4) Anti-aesthetic (against beauty – in art, music, architecture, daily life)
5) Given over to gross sensuality

CHRIST CALLS CHRISTIANS TO LIVE HOLY LIVES—UNITED TO HIM AND SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD

- 1 Peter 2:9-12: But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. **11** Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

- 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1: Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? **16** What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **17** Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, **18** and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.” Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

- Jeremiah 29:4-7: Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5** Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. **6** Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **7** But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

- James 4:4-10: You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. **5** Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? **6** But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”**7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. **9** Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. **10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.