



Hebrews 11:22

By Faith Joseph Faced Death Sun, Dec 7th 2008

What if you woke up this morning...to read your own obituary?

- Happened to many...perhaps most famous is Alfred Nobel in early 1888
- Truth was that it was his brother who had died...paper had it wrong
- But the shock was compounded when he read these words in the paper:
“The merchant of death is dead - Dr. Alfred Nobel, who became rich by finding ways to kill more people faster than ever before, died yesterday....”
- Yet reading those words – greatly affected Alfred Nobel
- He would not die for 8 more years...but when did, left in his will the millions of dollars to fund the Nobel Prize Fund. Every year, on the anniversary of his death – prizes awarded for the most prestigious advances
- Alfred Nobel read the record of his life...and wanted a different legacy
- What about you...if your obituary was read today...what is your legacy?

Perhaps thinking is an uncomfortable subject...yet necessary – ought to consider

- To see it correctly, know God sees our as special to Him – **Ps 116:15**

Matthew Henry said, **“Though the grace of faith is of universal use throughout the Christian’s life, yet it is especially so when we come to die. Faith has its great work to do at the very last, to help believers to finish well, to die to the Lord so as to honor Him, by patience, hope and joy so as to leave a witness behind them of the truth of God’s Word and the excellency of His ways. If anyone should die triumphantly it should be believers.”**

That is one of the key thoughts we want to consider today, as continue Heb 11

- This great chapter, hall of faith – presentation of the giants of faith
- Today...we come to Joseph – much could be said about Joseph
- Yet God brings only one area of his life to us – how he dies
 - In part...so many of the virtues of Joseph are clear in it...

Want to do something just a little bit different today

- Want to look at the verse before us...and the life of Joseph flowing into it
 - Yet, want to also see in him the reflection of Christ...
 - Some students have found over 100 pictures of Christ in Joseph
 - As we look at Joseph’s death – look also at Jesus...7 sayings on the cross
 - Believe in them...just shows us how to die....
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I. 1st Forgiveness

1. ...Children of Israel...

a. One of the amazing things is to see at the end of Joseph's life the relationship he has to his family....

2. Consider what Joseph Triumphed over..

a. a dysfunctional family

i) In one sense – true for all of us...all marred by sin

ii) Two generations of confusion, with Isaac, Jacob....

iii) Over came – notice in Gen 50:22-23

iv) Sadly, not true of all...many end life with family messed up

3. To do this, had to overcome bitterness & unforgiveness

a. If anyone had a “right” to be bitter – it was Joseph

b. Father's favoritism, brothers jealousy, almost killed, sold as slave, yet even there – though shined in character, treated wrongly by potifars wife

c. Truly though – it was what his brothers did that was highest –they doubted

i) Gen 50:15-18 – see how afraid they are.

4. How did Joseph overcome this place of bitterness, he explains

a. **by Giving God His place 50:19**

b. **by believing God goodness 50:20**

i) One thing for some to advise this to those in pain – Rom 8:28

ii) So much richer to see one embracing it in his own life

c. **by blessing instead of cursing 50:21**

i) Rom 12:17-21

5. Jesus 1st statement from Cross – Father Forgive them

a. Key role of forgiveness in being ready to die

b. Meant to be something we maintain daily – lord's prayer, not sun on anger

II.2nd Spiritual Sight

1. *...made mention of...*

2. Peoples final words are often revealing

- a. For centuries' the words of a dying man were taken seriously
- b. If you were dying...knew today was the day, what talk about? It would be the things that really grab you, the things that are dear to your heart

3. For Joseph, the incredible thing – focused on the promises of God

- a. Sometimes when one is dying...get spiritual all the sudden – phony
- b. But this is not that...for Joseph – this priority marked his whole life
- c. As a young man – sold into slavery – alone...yet held fast to God
- d. Held fast through trouble and trial
- e. Held fast in blessing...exaltation – worldliness
- f. How tempting it would have been to Joseph—with all that power **Gen 41:40-43**
- g. Yet, he did not succumb...he overcame – maintained spiritual vision
- h. I call you to this today

4. Jesus 2nd statement from Cross- today, you will be with me in paradise

- a. There...in pain...sharing hope, the gospel with another.
- b. There – the priority of spiritual things won over...shinned

III.3rd Practical Preparation

1. ...gave instructions...

- a. Many people don't really prepare for death – though all of us will die
- b. Between 50-65% of people don't have a will.
- c. Part of reason....don't, won't think about death. Joseph Did

2. Jesus 3rd statement from Cross shows He did

- a. John behold your mother, mother behold your son
- b. in doing this, He was making sure His mom (earthly) taken care of

IV.4th Possible Confusion

1.
- a. In truth...we don't see this in Joseph. Maybe there...Jesus showed
- 2. Jesus 4th statement from Cross – my God, My God why have you forsaken Me**
- a. Don't want to bring the huge spiritual happenings down to far
 - i) Pictured in this phrase, the great suffering of the cross – separation
- b. Yet, still hold it is an example for us – for some, death, time of is confusing
 - i) If I held out that Christians are never confused at death – not true
 - ii) Think of the account in Pilgrims Progress- Christian in the final hours
- c. Confusion, some for physical reasons...is possible, just understand that

V. 5th Actual Pain

1.
- a. Again, in Joseph is not pictured...is in Christ
- 2. 5th statement from the Cross- I thirst**
- a. Shows us that He was in touch with body, physically felt
- b. For many, this is one of the main fears – how we will die
- c. Sunnie's comment – all of us want to go to heaven, but no one wants to die to get there
- d. It is not unspiritual to feel pain...and even fear a little

VI. 6th Fulfilled Purpose

1. **...concerning his bones...**
 - a. What is Joseph doing here?
 - b. He could have had a burial to rival many – Egypt – Pyramid
 - i) But he did not want that
 - c. He could have, like Jacob, asked for bones to be buried in Israel
 - i) Not wrong – was good...but this more
2. **Joseph has eyes on his legacy...impact after he dies**
 - a. Drawn back to Alfred Nobel – what will my life mean when gone
 - b. Joseph wanted his life, his bones to be a reminder of going home
 - c. In many ways – interesting – he was instrumental in bringing to Egypt, but he wanted to be instrumental, powerful in their exit.
 - d. Bible records happened just this way – Ex 13:19, Josh 24:32
 - e. Again...drawn to ask you – what will your life leave behind?
3. **Jesus 6th statement from Cross – It is Finished**
 - a. Greatest purpose, fulfilling all that God has for you – I call you to this
 - b. How? Don't look back at what cannot change
 - c. Don't overly look at tomorrow. Maybe do need to move life in direction
 - d. Main thing – today – due what He has for you...even steps toward more
 - e. Jesus said it this way Luke 12:16-21
 - f. Call you to a life of significance...impact

VII. 7th Entrusting Calmness

1. **“...when he was dying..”**
 - a. In Gen – “I am dying” – just notice, he is able to talk about it
 - b. Comfortable with the thought of death
 2. **Jesus 7th statement from Cross – Father, Into Your hands commit my spirit**
 - a. Picture of perfect trust...so should be true of us – even today
 3. **Of all people, we should be comfortable with death**
 - a. Phil 1:20-24
 - b. 1 Cor 15:55-57
 - c. 2 Cor 5:8
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Conclusion

Read again – Heb 11:22

Christian...I call you to be comfortable about and ready to die

- I call you to have no unforgiveness in your life
- I call you to be focused on Spiritual reality
- I call you to be prepared practically
- I call you to know it might be confusing
- I call you to know to understand it might even be painful
- I call you to leave a legacy, fulfill your purpose
- I call you...to be comfortable with death
 - Such a great testimony in a world marked with fear

Yet, if you are not a Christian...this is not true, possible for you

- Death should frighten you...has a sting....worst yet to come
- Danger is many want to die like righteous – Num 23:10
- But unwilling to live the life of the righteous – 2 Pet 2:15
- Death of the righteous and unrighteous different – Prov 14:32

All of us will die...today, call you to live in light of it – Ecc 7:2