

Introduction

When Karen and I were traveling on the Tour, there were magazines, newspapers, and TV networks doing specials on us all the time. The TV filming crews would follow us as we loaded up our 15-passenger van, while we were driving on the highway, as we checked into our hotel, as we went out to eat at restaurants, as I was playing, while Karen was homeschooling, and while we were having family worship and teaching times. We worked hard at training up our children in the ways of the Lord. And yet, when we knew that the reporters or camera crews were going to be with us, we had a talk with our children and told them what was going on. We said that CNN, ESPN, ABC, or whoever was going to be showing up and filming today. We told them to behave themselves, and use good manners. Even though they were well behaved, we wanted to make sure that they behaved in front of the filming crews and reporters.

In Genesis 46, we ended last week with Joseph giving instructions to his brothers. He was going to be bringing them before Pharaoh, and he wanted them to be on their best behavior. He told them what he was going to tell Pharaoh, and then what they were supposed to tell Pharaoh when he asked them about their occupation. Our motives were a little different. I was motivated to be a light and a witness to the world, and there was probably some pride in there as well. The motivation behind Joseph's instructions was that he wanted them to get settled in the land of Goshen, the very best land in Egypt. The shepherds would get the best farm land and grazing land, and that is what he wanted for them.

We are covering Genesis 47 this week and Joseph brings his family to meet Pharaoh. First, he brings his brothers to meet Pharaoh, and then he brings his father to meet Pharaoh. Jacob blesses Pharaoh when he greets him, and he blesses him again when he leaves. In the second part of our text, we quickly move through the next seventeen years of their lives. It was a tale of two cities. It was the best of time and it was the worst of times. Jacob's family multiplied, prospered, and acquired land. The rest of Egypt was in a severe famine and used up all their money to buy grain. Then, they sold all their livestock to buy grain. Finally, they sold all their land to Pharaoh to buy grain, and they became his slaves. It was a great seventeen years for Israel, and a hard seventeen years for the Egyptians. Our text ends today with Israel on his death bed. He is about to die and he gives Joseph his burial instructions. In the next two chapters we will look at the blessings that he gives his sons. Today is Part 1 of Joseph's Final Days.

Israel's Final Days – Part 1 (Genesis 47)

1. Joseph Introduces His Family To Pharaoh (Gen 47:1-12)
2. Joseph Buys All Of Egypt For Pharaoh (Gen 47:13-26)
3. Israel's Burial Request (Gen 47:27-31)

1. Joseph Introduces His Family To Pharaoh (Gen 47:1-12)

(Gen 47:1-31) "Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are in the land of Goshen." {2} He took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh. {3} Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" So they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers." {4} They said to Pharaoh, "We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants' flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen." {5} Then Pharaoh said to

Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. {6} "The land of Egypt is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock." {7} Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. {8} Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many years have you lived?" {9} So Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning." {10} And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from his presence. {11} So Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had ordered. {12} Joseph provided his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to their little ones."

Last week we left off Joseph giving specific instructions to his brothers about how to answer Pharaoh. He told them to tell Pharaoh that they were keepers of livestock. Joseph wanted to make sure that they had the best land available, which was the land of Goshen. It is where the Nile empties into the Mediterranean Sea. It fans out into a number of branches. It is lowland, and there is an abundance of water for irrigation, farming, and ranching that is not going to be affected by the severe drought that the region was experiencing. The source of the Nile is the Blue Nile and White Nile. The White Nile begins in Ethiopia and flows through Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, and into Egypt. The White Nile and Blue Nile join up at Khartoum, Sudan. The Nile River is 4,130 miles long and it is said to be the longest river in the world. (The Brazilian government claims that the Amazon River is the longest river in the world.) So, the local drought is not going to significantly affect the land of Goshen. Joseph is putting his family in the land of Goshen, the very best land of the entire country.

Joseph went in and told Pharaoh that his family had arrived and are in Goshen. He took five of his brothers to meet Pharaoh. We don't know which five, but I would expect Judah and Benjamin to be two of the five. When Pharaoh asked them what their occupation was, they told him that they were keepers of livestock, exactly what Joseph had instructed them to say. They asked if they could live in the land of Goshen.

Then Pharaoh answered and said to Joseph, "The land of Egypt is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock." Pharaoh honors Joseph by giving his family the very best land. But, he also asked Joseph to put any of the capable men in charge of his livestock. Pharaoh is no dummy. He sees some knowledgeable and dependable workers. Businesses are always looking for good people.

Then Joseph brought his father to Pharaoh. I want to take a minute to comment on what Jacob does. When he meets Pharaoh, he blessed him. As he was leaving Pharaoh, he blessed him. Typically in our culture we greet someone by saying hi, and we leave someone by saying, "Bye." In their culture they give a greeting or salutation with a blessing. I grew up in Persia and their greeting was Salaam, which means peace. Throughout the Middle East they say Salaam. In Israel, they say Shalom, which also means peace. You just don't acknowledge someone's presence with hi, you bless them with peace.

As we read Paul's letters in the New Testament, he usually begins with a blessing of grace and peace.

(Gal 1:3) “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,”

(Eph 1:2) “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Phil 1:2) “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Col 1:2b) “Grace to you and peace from God our Father.”

Notice how Paul ends each of those letters. He ends with a blessing of grace to them. He blessed the churches with his greeting and he blessed the churches with his salutation. Jacob was no different. He blessed Pharaoh when he greeted him, and he blessed him when he left. We should do the same. We should learn to bless people when we greet them and bless them when we leave. When we leave church, we should leave with a blessing. I think that this should be standard practice for us.

(Gal 6:18) “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.”

(Eph 6:24) “Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible *love*.”

(Phil 4:23) “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.”

(Col 4:18c) “Grace be with you.”

When God spoke to Abram in Genesis 12, He told him that He would make him a great nation, and that he would be a blessing. Then, God said, “I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” We are the seed of Abraham. God wants to bless us and he wants all the families of the earth to be blessed by us. In Ephesians 1 we are told that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. God has blessed us, and He wants us to bless others.

(Gen 12:2-3) “And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; {3} and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

In addition to blessing people when we greet them or leave them, we should get in the habit of blessing people. We should ask people if we can pray for them, and we should pray for their needs. And, we should take just a minute to pray a blessing over them. When people come to visit us, before they leave, we should take just a minute to pray a blessing over them. If you don't know anything else to pray for someone, just pray a blessing. Bless their health. Bless their family. Bless their finances. Bless the work of their hands. Learn to bless people.

Let me go a step further. God tells us to bless those who curse us. In Luke 6:28, Jesus taught us to bless those who curse you. There is a lady named Lisa that some of you have seen yelling curses at me and our church. I have been praying blessings on Lisa. I have also prayed that God would void and break every curse that has been spoken over me and our church. But, I have been praying blessings on Lisa because that is what Jesus tells me to do.

Luke 6:28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

In Romans 12:14, Paul wrote that we should bless those who persecute us, and that we are not to curse them. We are to bless them. Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:9 that we are not to return evil or insult, but to give a blessing instead. Notice what else Peter said. We have been called for this very purpose. God has called you and I to bless others, and to inherit a blessing.

Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

1 Peter 3:9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

After Jacob greeted and blessed Pharaoh, Pharaoh wanted to know how old he was, and asked, "How many years have you lived?" Jacob answered that the years of his sojourning have been one hundred and thirty." This question was inspired by God. His age has helped us to establish ages and time periods for many others. Jacob also added that they have been few and unpleasant and that they have not attained to the years of his fathers. He is referring to his father, Isaac, who lived to be 180 years old, and Abraham, who lived to be 175 years old. If you recall the days of Noah, and that God put a limit to men of 120 years, there has been a constant decline in the life span from that point on. Each generation was going to get shorter until they got into the range limit that God set.

Joseph's answer bothered me this week. He told Pharaoh that they had been unpleasant. I gave a lot of thought to my years. I have had some very difficult chapters. I guess that I had a lot of rough edges and sometimes I needed more than sandpaper, so God put me through some situations to knock off some of the rough edges. I think that I needed more than sandpaper, I think that God used some lopping shears and pruned me a number of times. In John 15:2 Jesus said that He prunes us so that we can bear more fruit. In Hebrews 12:6, we read that God disciplines those whom He loves. God prunes and disciplines us so that we become more Christlike and bear more fruit. And some of these moments are not very comfortable. But, as I look back on my life, I cannot say that they have been unpleasant. This week I began to thank God for His goodness in my life. He gave me the most wonderful woman to enjoy all of my days. We have so much fun together. I love being with her, laughing with her, sharing meals with her, running errands together, and praying with her. God gave us ten children, and there were trying moments at times, but we have greatly enjoyed our children. They have been such a blessing. We have planted churches and there have been trying times, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the work God has given us to do. I look forward to our Bible study on Wednesday mornings. As I reflect on my days, they have been mostly pleasant. It bothered me to see that Jacob's days were unpleasant. I have a heart full of gratitude towards God for how He has dealt with me.

Then, Joseph settled his father and brothers in the best of the land, the land of Rameses, just as Pharaoh had ordered. Not only did he provide them with land, but he also provided them with food. It would take them a while to get settled and established, and he provided them with food during this time.

2. Joseph Buys All Of Egypt For Pharaoh (Gen 47:13-26)

(Gen 47:13-26) "Now there was no food in all the land, because the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.

{14} Joseph gathered all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of

Canaan for the grain which they bought, and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. {15} When the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food, for why should we die in your presence? For *our* money is gone." {16} Then Joseph said, "Give up your livestock, and I will give you *food* for your livestock, since *your* money is gone." {17} So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses and the flocks and the herds and the donkeys; and he fed them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year. {18} When that year was ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent, and the cattle are my lord's. There is nothing left for my lord except our bodies and our lands. {19} "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we and our land will be slaves to Pharaoh. So give us seed, that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate." {20} So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for every Egyptian sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. Thus the land became Pharaoh's. {21} As for the people, he removed them to the cities from one end of Egypt's border to the other. {22} Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had an allotment from Pharaoh, and they lived off the allotment which Pharaoh gave them. Therefore, they did not sell their land. {23} Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have today bought you and your land for Pharaoh; now, *here* is seed for you, and you may sow the land. {24} "At the harvest you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own for seed of the field and for your food and for those of your households and as food for your little ones." {25} So they said, "You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's slaves." {26} Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt *valid* to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; only the land of the priests did not become Pharaoh's."

The famine continued for five years, making it a total of seven years of severe famine. The people used up all their money to buy grain and survive. Then, when their money was gone, they sold their livestock to get grain. Finally, when the livestock was all gone, they sold their land to Pharaoh to get grain. Something was wrong with this picture. I want to go back to the dream that Pharaoh had. In Genesis 41:34-37, Joseph told Pharaoh to appoint overseers in charge of the land and to exact a fifth of the produce in the seven years of abundance. They were to store up the grain as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine. The purpose of the storehouses was not to take all their money, livestock, and land, and then to enslave them. Pharaoh took advantage of the situation and became the owner of everything, while the people ended up with nothing. The only people that Pharaoh exempted from this were the priests. Pharaoh gave them an allotment so that they did not have to sell anything to eat during the famine.

(Gen 41:34-36) "Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth *of the produce* of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance. {35} Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and let them guard *it*. {36} Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine."

In Psalm 62:10 David wrote, "*If riches increase, do not set your heart upon them.*" I believe that as the riches increased, Pharaoh set his heart on the riches. He did more than keep the people alive, it was a game of monopoly and he ended up with every property on the board.

(Psalm 62:10) “Do not trust in oppression and do not vainly hope in robbery; if riches increase, do not set *your heart upon them.*”

Egypt is often referred to as a picture of worldly ways. Crossing the Red Sea is likened to baptism. When the nation of Israel left Egypt, they crossed the Red Sea to enter into the Promise Land. When we receive Christ into our life, we repent and confess Jesus as Lord. Then, we are baptized as an act of obedience. Our sins are buried with Christ in baptism and we are raised up as new people. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians that the old ways are past and new things have come. We leave Egypt behind and the practices of Egypt. One of the worldly ways that we are to leave behind is greed.

In Romans 1:29-31, Paul gives the characteristics of those who have not received Christ and are worldly. He says they are “filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil...” Greed is just one of many characteristics of the world. When we come to Christ, we are to leave these old ways behind us and walk in newness of life. In Ephesians 5:3-4, Paul said that “immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.” Our lives are not to be characterized by greed. In Luke 12:15, Jesus had been asked to arbitrate in a family squabble about money. He refused to get involved, but then He warned the young man, “*Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed, for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.*”

(Rom 1:29-31) “being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, {30} slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, {31} without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;”

(Eph 5:3-4) “But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; {4} and *there must be no* filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”

(Luke 12:15) “Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”

Joseph had levied a 20% tax on them during the good years to save up for the famine. He could have set up some kind of account so that people would get credited for what they had given. He could have allowed the people to keep their lands without bringing people into bondage. For most of Egypt's history thereafter, the people did not own the land. In 1952, land reform took place in Egypt and there was a significant redistribution of ownership, allowing about 341,000 people became land owners.

After Pharaoh had all the land, the Egyptians were allowed to go back and farm it. They could live on 80% and they had to give Pharaoh 20%. The people were grateful that their lives had been preserved, and gladly embraced the new arrangement.

3. **Israel's Burial Request** (Gen 47:27-31)

(Gen 47:27-31) “Now Israel lived in the land of Egypt, in Goshen, and they acquired property in it and were fruitful and became very numerous. {28} Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years; so the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years.

{29} When the time for Israel to die drew near, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Please, if I have found favor in your sight, place now your hand under my thigh and deal with me in kindness and faithfulness. Please do not bury me in Egypt, {30} but when I lie down with my fathers, you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said." {31} He said, "Swear to me." So he swore to him. Then Israel bowed *in worship* at the head of the bed."

Seventeen years have passed. It has been a very fruitful seventeen years, and they became very numerous. We don't know how numerous at this point. We saw last week that over a period of 400 years they went from 70 men to 624,000 men. It is interesting that they acquired property. In many foreign lands, foreigners cannot own land. At this point they were able to own land. Contrast this with the rest of Egypt. They used up all their money to buy grain. Then, they sold all their cattle to pay for grain. Then, they sold all their land to survive the drought. They were broke and had nothing while Israel bought land and were very fruitful. That is a perfect recipe for jealousy. We are not planning on continuing with the book of Exodus, but they soon lost favor and were forced into bondage.

Jacob is now 147 years old. It says that when the time for Israel to die drew near, he called his son Joseph. Seventeen years earlier he was ready to die since he had seen Joseph. But, seventeen years later it was his time to die. We don't know how he knew it was time to die, but he knew it. Recently, my mother and I had a meeting with the Doctor and the Manager at the Alzheimer's facility that my father is in. They wanted to put him on Hospice. I knew a little bit about Hospice, but I went ahead and researched it again to refresh my knowledge. There are different signs that doctors pay attention to that give them an idea of how long it will be before a person dies. One of the signs is a loss of appetite. My father has not lost his appetite. Frequently they bring him a second plate full of food. But there are lots of other signs that people that work with elderly people observe, and they have a pretty good idea when the time is near. This week another man died on Wednesday. On Monday, they told us that he was dying. They have a pretty good idea about when people are going to die.

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| 1. | Loss of Appetite |
| 2. | Sleeping More |
| 3. | Less Sociable |
| 4. | Change in Vital Signs
(blood pressure,
breathing, color of
urine) |
| 5. | Change in Bowel
Movements |
| 6. | Body Weakens |
| 7. | Drop in Body
Temperature |
| 8. | Mental Confusion |
| 9. | Change in Breathing |
| 10. | Increased Pain |
| 11. | Hallucinations |

Israel said to Joseph, "Please, if I have found favor in your sight, place now your hand under my thigh and deal with me in kindness and faithfulness. Then, he had Joseph take an oath. This is not the first occurrence of this. In Genesis 24:2-3, Abraham had his servant place his hand under his thigh and swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that he would not take a wife for Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites. Theologians differ on their understanding of this. Some Jewish scholars, like Rabbi Ibn Ezra, teach that placing your hand under the thigh means just that, to be under. It is a sign of submission to the person that you are making an oath under. So Abraham's servant was submitting to the charge by Abraham. Joseph was showing obedience and submission to Israel by placing his hand under his thigh. Some scholars believe that this was just the cultural custom of making an oath. We swear on the Bible, or raise our hand and make an oath. They believe that this was there way of making an oath. Some scholars relate this to the

testicles and the seed, and that Abraham was concerned about his seed, Isaac, and the promise God had made about his seed. There is a possibility that all three of those teachings are correct.

(Gen 24:2-3) “Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, "Please place your hand under my thigh, {3} and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live,”

Then, Israel asks Joseph not to bury him in Egypt, but to carry him out of Egypt and bury him in their burial place. This is the burial place that Abraham had bought in Genesis 23 so that he could bury Sarah. He paid 400 shekels of silver for the cave of Machpelah and the field by it. The burial site of Sarah became a cemetery for others. When Abraham died, his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah with his wife, Sarah (Genesis 25:9-10). In Genesis 49:30-32, we find that Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, and Jacob were all buried at that site. Today, there is a large rectangular building over the cave of Machpelah. There is a mosque over the site today, and it is known as the Mosque of Ibrahimi, and also as the Sanctuary of Ibrahimi. The Muslims revere Abraham, as the father of Ishmael. Today, there is an entrance for Muslims and another one for Jews and others to use. The cave is also known as the Cave of the Patriarchs.

Joseph responded to Israel's request by saying, “I will do as you have said.” I believe that Joseph could be trusted, and was a man of his word, but Israel did not accept that answer. He made Joseph swear an oath to him, so Joseph swore to him. When we give our word to someone, we need to be people of our word. When we tell someone that we will do something, they should be able to count on us to do it. I have found that many people cannot be trusted. Here are some of my observations.

- Some people think out loud, and their words are just possibilities, not commitments. Therefore, if I know that this is a tendency of someone, I ask the person if they are thinking out loud or making a commitment.
- Some people are not very organized. They don't write down their commitments and promises. They don't put it down in a daytimer or on a task list in Outlook. Since it is not in front of them, they don't have a reminder, and they simply forget. I encourage men to get organized and write things down. We must be men of our word.
- Some people simply lie about things. They tell you what they think you want to hear and have no intention of ever doing what they are saying. I have had a lot of people tell me that they are going to come to our church service, and I believe many of them never had any intention of coming. I have found this particularly true with sales people. They say yes because they want your business, but they have no intention of coming. I keep inviting people that I meet, including these sales people. I am charged with inviting, not whether they come or not.
- Some people simply have things that come up and they cannot follow through. They don't communicate that something came up and that they will not be able to do what they promised. I appreciate these people, and my trust level in them increases when they do this.

Our chapter ends with Israel bowing his head in worship at the head of the bed. In the NASB, the words, in worship, are in italics, which means that they are not in the original text; they are implied. The Hebrew word for bow that is used is shawkhaw (Strong's H7812), and it is used

172 times in the Old Testament. It means to depress or prostrate in homage to royalty or God, do reverence, or to worship. Of the 172 times it is used, it is translated as worship 99 times. So, when it reads that Israel bowed his head in worship, that is a very good translation.

Conclusion And Applications (Matt 5:33-37, Mark 10:13-16)

What are the take-aways and applications from today? First, God wants to bless you and I and He wants to bless others through us. He wants us to learn to bless the people that He brings into our lives. Look for opportunities to pray blessings on people. Give a blessing when you greet people. Give a blessing when you leave people. It may not be normal in our culture, but we are citizens of heaven, and it is kingdom culture to bless people. Abraham was blessed and he was to be a blessing to all people. Learn to bless people.

Another take-away today is to leave Egypt and its ways behind. Pharaoh took God's provision for the people and used it to oppress his own people. What God meant for good – to preserve the lives of people – he used to build his own monopoly. Pharaoh was characterized by greed. We are to leave behind our old life and embrace the new life in Christ Jesus. When people look at your life, are they seeing Egypt or are they seeing someone who has crossed over the Red Sea and is living a pure and holy life? Are they seeing the lusts of the flesh, or someone who has denied himself and put to death the deeds of the flesh? We must renew our minds and live transformed lives. Greed and immorality are not even to be named among us.

Another take away is for us to be people of our word. Jesus said, let your yes be yes and your no be no. (Matt 5:33-37) We should not have to make someone take an oath before we trust them to do what they say. It may take some additional organization on our part. It may take some effort and commitment, but let's learn to be people of our word. We are ambassadors for Christ, and people must be able to trust us to do what we say.

As we get ready to partake of the Lord's Supper, let me end with a blessing. In Mark 10:13 people began bringing children to Jesus that He might touch them. The disciples tried to stop them, but Jesus took them in His arms and began blessing them. We want to be like Jesus and learn to bless people.

(Mark 10:13-16) “And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them...
{16} And He took them in His arms and *began* blessing them, laying His hands on them.

Father, this morning I want to bless Your children. I bless Your people this morning. I bless their finances. I bless their businesses. Just as You blessed Israel, even in a famine, I ask You to bless the businesses represented here. I bless their families. I bless the children. I bless the family relationships. I bless their health. I bless their going out and coming in. I bless their homes. I bless their souls. May Your people be full of love, joy, peace, and grace today and throughout the week. I pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Introduction

- 1. Joseph Introduces His Family To Pharaoh** (Gen 47:1-12, Gal 1:3, 6:18, Eph 1:2, 6:24, Phil 1:2, 4:23, Col 1:2, 4:18, Gen 12:2-3, Luke 6:28, Rom 12:14, 1 Pet 3:9, John 15:2, Heb 12:6)
- 2. Joseph Buys All Of Egypt For Pharaoh** (Gen 47:13-26, Gen 41:34-36, Ps 62:10, 2 Cor 5:17, Rom 1:29-31, Eph 5:3-4, Luke 12:14-15)
- 3. Israel's Burial Request** (Gen 47:27-31, Gen 24:2-3, 25:9-10, 49:30-32)

Conclusion And Applications (Matt 5:33-37, Mark 10:13-16)