

Faith Remembering

Hebrews 11:22

Heb 11:22 – *“By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.”*

Introduction:

Gospel Advocate – 21st Century – Lambert Publishing
Children’s curriculum is 12 – 15 years; 2/3’s through 12th grade

- 2/3’s begin with developing character traits
 - Love
 - Obedience
 - Respect for authority
 - Mercy
 - Teach about God and Jesus
 - Themes: God is Love; Jesus, Our Lord
- When you begin to teach Biblical characters, Old Testament or New Testament, **ALMOST ALWAYS START WITH JOSEPH**

Four year study through the entire Bible – All Youth and Adults

- Parents and youth – all studying the same thing
- 4’x8’ and 4’x4’ sheets of Styrofoam covered with cloth
 - Long ones – Timeline (creation to present year)
 - Put characters on the timeline in the proper place
 - Short ones – maps; blue fabric – water, green – earth
 - Patriarch times; Jesus; Paul’s travels
- Very 1st lesson – JOSEPH

JOSEPH – remarkable person – young, middle age, old

Probably more “TYPES” associated with Joseph than any other Bible character. Christ being the “ANTITYPE”.

JOSEPH

- Starts in Genesis 37
- Joseph is 17 years old – He would be in the 11th grade @ ORHS or Austin East.
 - At this time, age when people would start listening to you is age 20
- He told the truth, it mattered not whether the truth was a good report or a bad report
 - Told his father a bad report on Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher
 - Not popular, not a good way to make friends
 - Not a tattler, but strong in character

- Not a tattler tell, but strong in character
- His father, Jacob, loved him above all his children.
- He gave him a coat of many colors.
- Joseph's brothers hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.
- He dreamed a dream and told it to his brothers, bringing on more hatred.
- He dreamed a second dream and told it to his father and his brothers.
- His father rebuked him for the dream.
- **But notice that Joseph NEVER interpreted his dreams.**
 - His father and his brothers did and they interpreted correctly!
- **This says something about Joseph.**
 - He wasn't haughty or smug.
 - He was not trying to rub it in that he was the favorite of his father.
 - All we see is a very young man who just told the truth of what he had dreamed.
- Hatred of his brothers led them to sell him.
 - Their 1st intent was to kill him.
 - Reuben stopped them but suggested that they put him into a pit.
 - Reuben's intention was to come back later and release Joseph and take him back home. Reuben never wanted to kill him or sell him.
 - When Reuben left the brothers alone with Joseph, they sold Joseph to their cousins, the Ishmaelites / Midianites.
 - When Reuben got back they concocted a scheme to take the coat of many colors back to their father soaked in blood. Joseph was now dead to Jacob.
- Ishmaelites / Midianites sold Joseph, in Egypt, to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.
- **Joseph was now a slave.**
 - He now had a job he didn't ask for.
 - He was now in a country not of his choosing.
 - But there was no pity party with Joseph.
 - He could have slaked off in his work BUT HE DIDN'T.

If ever there was someone who demonstrated scripture in his life, it was Joseph. But it would be scripture that hadn't been written yet but nonetheless lived.

Eph 6:5-8 – *“Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.”*

16 – 17 Centuries would pass before these words would be written – yet Joseph *lived* them.

- Joseph overcame the will of man (woman) in Potiphar's wife.
 - She lusted after Joseph and wanted him to sleep with her.
 - But Joseph was strong, rejecting her advances.
 - **Gen 39:9** – *“How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”*
 - But she kept on trying to entice Joseph.

- Finally she got him in the house when no one else was around and grabbed hold of him.
- But Joseph ran out of his clothes to keep from being entrapped and sinning.
- Potiphar's wife lied on Joseph and Joseph was sent to prison.
- **Gen 39:21** – *“But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.”*
- Pharaoh's Butler and Baker found themselves in prison.
 - Joseph was put in charge over them, to serve them.
 - Over time both had dreams that Joseph gave the interpretation from God.
 - Joseph's only request was that the Butler would remember him.
 - The Baker was beheaded and his body hanged from a tree.
 - But the Butler was restored to service for Pharaoh and in turn forget Joseph.
- Two years later Pharaoh had two dreams that disturbed him.
- No one in Egypt could interpret the dreams.
- Finally the Butler remembered Joseph and suggested unto Pharaoh that Joseph may be able to help.
- Joseph is brought before Pharaoh and asked to interpret the dreams.
- **JOSEPH REFUSED TO TAKE ANY GLORY OR HONOR FOR HIMSELF BUT GAVE GLORY TO GOD.**
- **Gen 41:16** – *“So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”*
- God gives Pharaoh the interpretation through Joseph; 7 yrs plenty – 7 yrs famine.
- Joseph becomes 2nd in command of all Egypt.
- His own dreams are fulfilled in the 2nd year of famine when his brothers come to buy grain in Egypt.
- Later his father would come to Egypt, fulfilling the 2nd dream.
- Joseph increases Pharaoh's worth.
 - People buy grain but eventually they run out of money.
 - Joseph have the people offer their cattle to Pharaoh as payment. Now Pharaoh owns all the cattle of Egypt.
 - Eventually the grain runs out and the people come back.
 - The people offer their land to Pharaoh and themselves as Pharaoh's servants as payment for grain.
 - Joseph accepts in the name of Pharaoh, and charges the people that from this point on, 1/5th of all their harvest would belong to Pharaoh. The lone exception was the land of the Egyptian priests.
 - Pharaoh now owns all the land of Egypt and its citizens.
 - Just as Pharaoh increased in statue, his 2nd in command would increase also.
- Joseph secures the choicest land for his father and his people – the land of Goshem.

God was with Joseph and blessed Joseph continuously.

Heb 11:6 – *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

But Heb. 11:22 does not deal with the blessings from God, but with God's word.

Heb 11:22 – *“By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the*

children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.”

It deals with the word of God – not spoken directly to Joseph, but passed down to him and the family.

Gen 15:13-16

13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

It is the promise of the return that Joseph remembered. He remembered the word of God.

In Joseph we have FAITH REMEMBERING!

Romans 10:17 – *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

So many today rest on the REWARDS from God and not God’s Word.

WHILE WE WAIT ON GOD – DON’T FORGET WHAT WE ARE WAITING FOR!