

Life Group Notes
Sunday 01 March 2020

Speaker: Sean Green

Passage: Genesis 48:15-16

Series: Jacob's Story: A Grace-filled Struggle

Title: Dying Well

This is the last in our sermon series looking at the life of Jacob. We join Jacob when he was 147 years old and he's lived in Egypt for 17 years. He is now frail, has poor eyesight, and is dying. Jacob is trying to get his house in order.

Read: Genesis 48v15-16

Jacob's Legacy: 70 of Jacob's direct descendants migrated to Egypt. They flourished and over the next 400 years grew to become a mighty nation. Jacob's legacy was about having babies to fill the earth. That was before Jesus came. Jesus' legacy is far better, it is about filling the earth by making disciples, spiritual descendants. This is open to all, married and singles alike (Matt 28). We are called to make 'disciples of Jesus', not 'dependants on us'.

Jacob's Deathbed: Read Gen 50v29-33. After a life of 'struggle', Jacob rallies to speak blessing over his boys and plans his burial. For years it seemed the story centred on Jacob; now God's story continues without him. We do well to consider this because our day is coming. For those in Christ, it is not a day to fear but one we can prepare for (writing a will, life assurance, a relational bucket list). We should plan to die with no relational regrets, Jesus has made this possible.

Jacob's Shepherd: As Jacob looks back on the struggle of his life, he was able to say God had been his shepherd. He was confident God would continue to shepherd him to be with his ancestors in death. 1000yrs later, Jacob's descendant King David's wrote Psalm 23: *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me"*. Another 1000yrs later, Jacob's descendant Jesus said about himself: *"I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice my life for the sheep (Jn 10v14-15)* Jesus will lead and protect us throughout our lives; and will lead us into and through our death experience. As one who has passed through this, he is able to comfort us.

All of us will die and life will continue after we have gone. We will go through the death experience, but we don't have to do it alone. We can be led there, and comforted through it, by Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Questions for discussion:

1. Your spiritual legacy: Are you 'skimming' or 'stacking' stones?
2. Our day is coming: What preparation can you be making?
3. How does Jesus comfort as He leads us into, and through, death?