

The Perspective of Faith

In the great faith chapter, Hebrews 11, we find what seems at first sight to be a strange request. We read that Joseph, when he was about to die, spoke about the coming departure of the children of Israel from Egypt and gave commands that they take his bones with them when they left. We may be even more puzzled when we read that what Joseph did was a great act of faith.

One might ask, “What has this to do with faith? With all the great deeds of faith before his eyes, why does the writer of the book of Hebrews stop to record how Joseph gave instructions about where his bones should finally come to rest?” However, a closer look reveals that what Joseph did was indeed a remarkable act of faith.

The Israelites had risen in Egypt from poverty to power. They were now prosperous in the home that Joseph had provided for them. But at his death, Joseph looked forward to a time when his people would no longer be prosperous, when they would be persecuted and would leave Egypt to go back to their own land. In such a time of prosperity this might have seemed to be impossible; but Joseph saw it in faith, and he gave commandment concerning his bones.

Joseph took his eyes, therefore, from the present with its prosperity, and from himself with his personal prestige and power, and he fastened them on the future of his people, a future which was filled with the promises given by Jehovah to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. To them God had promised a land, and it was in that land, in Canaan, that Joseph said that he should be finally buried.

Like Moses after him, and like all those who are truly faithful to God, Joseph chose to suffer affliction with the people of God. He could look past the present, with all its enticements, and see the destiny that God had for him with his chosen people. That is why he, in faith, said that his bones should not rest in Egypt, but that they should be transported to the new land that God would give Israel.

For this reason the writer of Hebrews records this as a great act of faith: “By faith, Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones” (Hebrews 11:22).

*Now faith is the
assurance of
things hoped for,
the conviction of
things not seen.*

Hebrews 11:1

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THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 208

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 392

“O Day of Rest and Gladness”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Almighty God, we are unworthy to come into your presence, because of our many sins. We do not deserve any grace or mercy from you, if you dealt with us as we deserve. We have sinned against you, O Lord, and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, so also do we acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your son, to show mercy to us, and forgive us all our offenses. Forgive the sins of our youth, and the sins of our old age. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our life, but also the words of our mouths, and the smallest thought of our minds, may be guided and governed by you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Assurance of Forgiveness

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1John 1:9)

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 221

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 411

“Shine Thou upon Us Lord”

Sermon Text

Luke 22:53-65

Sermon

THE SAYING OF THE LORD

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 247

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Celebrating the Supper

*Hymn of Response # 420

“At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.