

Sojourning Genesis 47:1-12

I. Intro

- A. Sojourn: to stay somewhere temporarily
- B. Always on the move, as God directs.
- C. Adventure Awaits!
 - 1. If you have ever experienced an adventure, things can get sketchy before they get calm.
 - 2. That's what makes it an adventure
 - 3. Some of us like everything to be scripted out and sterile...
 - 4. That is not the life of a Christ follower, we are temporary inhabitants of this land, with a home in heaven, but we are here for the purposes of God.
- D. Jacob tells Pharaoh he had been sojourning all his days, that is a great perspective for us today.

II. Text

- A. Verses 1-4
 - 1. Presented to Pharaoh, then the introduction
 - 2. They declare two things:
 - a) Sojourning: temporary status
 - b) Shepherds: low status in the eyes of Egypt
- B. Verses 5-6
 - 1. Pharaoh reaffirms their status and location
 - 2. All the Land of Egypt is before you, take the best land and do right
- C. Verses 7-10
 - 1. Look further into Jacob's life of difficulty:
 - a) The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years.
 - b) Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life
 - c) and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning."
 - 2. Jacob's life:
 - a) Born as the second twin, Name means "grabber of the heel!" or "supplanter"
 - b) Jacob's birth: [Gen 25:19-28 ESV] 19 These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, 20 and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. 21 And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22 The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. 23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger." 24 When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. 25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. 26 Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. 27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. 28 Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.
 - c) Jacob takes what isn't his: [Gen 25:29-34 ESV] 29 Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. 30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) 31 Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." 32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" 33

Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

- d) Jacob takes what isn't his again: [Gen 27:18-23 ESV] 18 So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" 19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." 20 But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the LORD your God granted me success." 21 Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." 22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." 23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him.
- e) Jacob sent to Laban, away from Canaan
- f) Jacob's ladder: [Gen 28:12-14 ESV] 12 And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
- g) Jacob marries Leah, then Rachel, Laban tricked him Genesis 29
- h) Jacob Wrestles with God: [Gen 32:24-25, 28 ESV] 24 And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ... 28 Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."
- i) Jacob is afraid of Esau...but Esau blesses him. Genesis 33
- j) Genesis 35: Jacob finally removes idols from his house and finds God's blessing and a reassurance of the covenant promise and the name change
 - (1) His process of growth is clear
 - (2) His name was redeemed, but his life was difficult for certain.

D. Verses 11-12

- 1. God blesses Israel with the best of the land, and provisions
- 2. They were in a place of blessing

III. Points

A. We are Sojourners

- 1. The patriarchs referred to their life as a sojourn, as they were called out of their home region, and sent to the land of God's promise.
- 2. Jacob refers to navigating this life as a sojourn...because it is.
 - a) Abram was called out of Ur, and sent west
 - b) Isaac and Jacob bounced around the region in a nomadic lifestyle.
 - c) They had a promised land, but they didn't settle in one city and remain there, they followed
- 3. Jacob's Travels:
 - a) Some of Jacob's sojourning was due to some really awful decisions he made
 - b) Some of Jacob's sojourning was due to directions given by Isaac, his authority
 - c) Some of Jacob's sojourning was due to some really awful decisions by others
 - d) It was a journey, some plots along the journey were self imposed challenges, some were outside influenced, others were just circumstances...yet there were all a part of the journey.

4. Their nomadic lifestyle was a symbol for our reality today
 5. We are citizens of heaven, but reside in the chaos of the world
 - a) We are here for a purpose
 - b) We are here for His purpose
 - c) We are not our own
 6. Many times we live as this is not the reality
 - a) We do our own thing and expect God to bless it
 - b) We refuse to wait on God, getting impatient and settle in to a rut that is self trust, rather than growing in trust
 7. We forget how blessed we are!
- B. We are Blessed
1. The blessing comes in our dependance on the one person who has never let us down, Christ
 2. Jacob's family was blessed:
 - a) With the best of the land
 - b) With isolation from the Egyptian populace
 - c) With freedom to prosper under God's plan and will.
 - d) They were brought to this point by God, though the actions of man were wicked
 3. The very people that did awful things were blessed for the purposes of God
 4. Every blessing comes from God, and He wants to bless you:
 - a) [Jas 1:16-18 ESV] 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
 - b) [3Jo 1:2-4 ESV] 2 Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. 3 For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.
 5. The blessings of God are never separated from the truth of God's word.
 6. Obedience is still a part of our blessing.
 7. The lie of the enemy, the father of lies, is to distort this truth, don't let him convince you
 8. We are blessed when we find obedience to the truth.
 - a) Blessed with fellowship with God
 - b) Blessed with peace with Holy God
 - c) Blessed with confidence to serve
 - d) Blessed with solace in being separated from the world
- C. Christ Connection
1. Jesus will call us out of our wickedness, bless our circumstances, and compel us to live in truth.
 2. Joseph served his role, the brothers experienced change and willful obedience, and God provided for them.
 3. Stop the cycle of failure and walk in obedience to the truth:
 4. Ephesians 5: Walk in Love, Walk in Light, Walk in Wisdom
 - a) [Eph 5:1 ESV] 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
 - b) [Eph 4:1 ESV] 1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,
 5. Wherever we walk, wherever we live, wherever we reside, WALK WORTHY and find blessing in the walk.
 6. Follow God's plan all the way to the end, and experience the adventure of the walk.
 7. Joseph stands with his brothers before Pharaoh and Pharaoh welcomed the brothers into Egypt

- a) It hadn't mattered what they had done
- b) It hadn't mattered their worth
- c) It only mattered that they were with Joseph, they were his family, and they were welcomed in to the place of blessing.

IV. Close