

Grace in times of Grief
Gen 50:1-6

Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him. 2 Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. 3 Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days. 4 When the days of mourning for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your sight, please speak to Pharaoh, saying, 5 ' My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am about to die; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.'" 6 Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."

"God wants not only your whole heart; he wants your heart whole."
--Max Lucado--

Meditation Verse

As for you,
You meant evil against me;
But God meant it for good,
(Genesis 50:20)

5 stages of grief

Denial—Anger—Bargaining—Depression—Acceptance
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1. Joseph ***experienced*** grace in the face of grief. (50:7-8a)

So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household and all the elders of the land of Egypt, 8 and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and his father's household;

1. Joseph needed grace to face the ***emotional*** toll of death. (50:1)

Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him and kissed him.

2. Joseph needed grace to face the ***physical*** toll of death. (50:2-3)

Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. 3 Now forty days were required for it, for such is the period required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.

3. Joseph needed grace to face the ***spiritual*** toll of death. (50:5)

5 ' My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am about to die; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father; then I will return."

II. Joseph **exercised** grace in the face of grief. (Gen 50:14-15)

After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "***What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!***"

1. Joseph exercised grace because he knew God's **place**. (50:19)

But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?"

2. Joseph exercised grace because he knew God's **purpose**. (50:20)

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

3. Joseph exercised grace because he knew God's **provision**. (50:21)

"So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

III. Joseph exemplified grace in the face of grief. Gen 50:22-26

22 Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.

1. Joseph exemplified grace to the **next** generation. (50:23)

Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees.

2. Joseph exemplified grace in his **own** generation. (50:24)

Joseph said to his brothers, " I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob."

3. Joseph exemplified grace to an **unknown** generation. (50:25)

Then *Joseph made the sons of Israel swear*, saying, "*God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here.*"

