**Family Secrets – Gen. 48:5**

*Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine: Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are – 48:5*

**Focal Truth: Jacob lovingly adopted Joseph’s sons in Egypt**

Nothing is more humbling than being adopted into a loving family!

Some in this church know the life – long impact of being adopted by a family who accept you as their own!

God blessed the sons of Joseph to become great tribes in the nation of Israel to accomplish God’s purposes!

**Observations**

1. **Jacob lovingly accepted Joseph’s sons as his own sons – 48:5**

*Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine: Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are – 48:5*

1. Jacob lived by faith in the promise of God to bless the nation of Israel through his sons – 48:4 – *I will make you a numerous people, a great company of people, I will give this land to your descendants for an everlasting possession*
2. Jacob by faith adopted Joseph’s sons as his sons to fulfill the promise of the 12 tribes of Israel

**Manasseh = God has made me forget my family & father – now becomes a son of Jacob and the father of a tribe of Israel**

Gideon = was from the tribe of Manasseh

**Ephraim = God has made me fruitful in the land of afflictions – now becomes a son of Jacob and the father of a tribe of Israel**

Joshua = was from the tribe of Ephraim

1. Jacob loved the sons of Joseph whom he had never known before he came to Egypt

48:10 -11 – *now the eyes of Israel were so dim from age that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them close to him, and he kissed them and embraced them. Israel said to Joseph, I never expected to see your face, and behold God has let me see your children as well*

**Consider**

1. There is no greater achievement than seeing & being with your grandchildren

*Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and the glory of sons is their fathers Pr. 17:6*

1. God gives a special blessing to the old through their grandchildren he gives to them
2. Every grandchild is a unique creation of God – to be loved & accepted equally
3. **Jacob blessed Joseph’s sons as his own sons – 48:8 -9**

*When Israel saw Joseph’s sons, he said who are these? Joseph said, they are my sons whom God has given me here. So, he said, bring them to me, please that I may bless them*

1. Jacob blesses the sons of Joseph with the family blessing he had received from his father Isaac

*Isaac called Jacob and blessed him…28:1*

1. Jacob’s blessing was a blessing of acceptance into the family of Jacob regardless of their birth from an Egyptian mother
2. Jacob crossed his hands and blessed the younger Ephraim with the first - born blessing

48:14 – *Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who ws the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh’s head, crossing his hands, although Manasseh was the firstborn*

48:19 – *however the younger will be greater than he, descendants will become a multitude of nations = Ephraim*

1. Jacob blessed the younger as the first – born as his father Isaac had been blessed and as he had been blessed as the first – born

*The older shall serve the younger… 25:23*

**Consider**

1. Jacob’s act of blessing Joseph son’s was part of God’s purposed plan for the coming of the Lord Jesus through the nation of Israel
2. God’s grace is pictured in the blessing of the younger becoming the first born
3. **Joseph’s sons of exile became the promised sons of blessing – 48:15 -16**
4. Jacob blessed Joseph when he blessed his sons – 48: 15 -16

*He blessed Joseph, and said, the God before whom my father’s Abraham and Isaac walked. The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day. The angel who has redeemed me from all evils, bless the lads; and my name live on in them, and the names of my father’s Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth*

1. Joseph was blessed when his sons became the sons of Jacob
2. Joseph’s sons will be greater in blessing then their father

*He blessed them that day saying, by you Israel will pronounce blessing, saying May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh! 48:20*

1. Jacob blessed Joseph with a greater portion of blessing than his brothers

*I am about to die, but God will be with you, and bring you back to the land of your fathers. I will give you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow – 48: 21 – 22*

**Consider**

1. Children blessed by their grandparents carry a special blessing
2. Have you blessed your grandchildren with the family blessing?
3. Family blessings carry lasting encouragement to those who receive them!

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. Jacob’s adoption of Josephs sons was a prophetic blessing for the nation Israel
2. Adoption extends the family blessing to those who need a family – pray about adopting a child
3. Adopted children are accepted, loved & blessed by the families who adopt them!
4. Believers are adopted children of God – accepted, loved & blessed by God

**See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God and such we are! 1 John 3:1**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**