WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

"*When You Come to the End*"

Genesis 48:1-22

INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Genesis is a PARADOX (a Contradiction).
    a) "**Genesis**" – means birth; creation or beginning.
        1) **Genesis 1:1ff**

    b) It's a PARADOX because Genesis is also a book about death.
        1) **Genesis 5:1ff**
            a)***"….and he died***"

2. ***John 14:6***

3. ***Revelation 21:4***

4. Now at the end of Genesis we prepare for the deaths of Jacob and Joseph.
    a) **Jacob** – Genesis 48 & 49
    b) **Joseph** – Genesis 50

FOUR END OF LIFE REFLECTIONS

I. REFLECTION ON <u>THANKFULNESS</u>

1. When Joseph leaned that Jacob was sick and his time was short.
    a) He took his two sons- Ephraim and Manasseh to visit him.

A. REMEMBERING PAST <u>BLESSINGS</u>

1. **Vs 3**
    a) "**Luz**" – Bethel was a favorite place to Jacob

2. **Vs 4**
    a) ***Genesis 17:1-4***
    b) ***Genesis 28:13, 19***
    c) ***Genesis 35:6, 9***

B. REMEMBERING HIS FIRST <u>LOVE</u>

1. **Genesis 48:5-7**

2. Jacob had 13 children to 4 women.
    a) Leah, Rachel, Bilhah and Zilpah
    b) But Jacob loved Rachael.
    c) Jacob worked 14 years for her.

3. **Vs 7**

C. HE REMEMBERED HIS <u>REDEMPTION</u>

1. **Vs 15-16**
    a) "***the angel***" – is "THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

2. Jacob is referring back to the night he wrestled with the Angel of the Lord"
    a) **Genesis 32:22-32**

3. Before that night Jacob was a deceiver by name but after that God changed his name to Israel – God prevails.

4. Not everything in life is going to be peaches and cream.
    a) Tough times will come.
        1) From mistakes we make.
        2) And things out of our control.
    b) BUT those who walk faithfully with the Lord will have fond memories to reflect on.

5. We can be thankful that God is **FAITHFUL**.
    a) ***1 Corinthians 15:1-4***
    b) ***Ephesians 2:8-9***

II. REFLECTING ON <u>PERSONAL</u> FAITH

A. GOD <u>CENTERED</u>

1. Jacob the deceiver was "self-centered" in his younger years.
    a) But now his focus was on God.

2. **Vs 15a**
    a) We know this was the same God who blessed Abraham and Isaac and now blesses Jacob.

B. GOD <u>LED</u>

1. **Vs 15b**
    a) "the God who has been my Shepherd"

C. GOD'S <u>WORK</u>

1. **Vs 15b-16**

III. REFLECTING ON GOD'S <u>LOVE</u>

1. **Vs 8-14**

2. The Hebrew order of Blessing went to the oldest son first then to the younger.
    a) Right hand on the older.
    b) Left hand on the younger.

3. **Vs 17-20**

4. **THE LESSON HERE IS**: God will bless whom he chooses.
    a) God does the same today.

IV. REFLECTING ON GOD'S <u>PROMISES</u>

1. Vs 21

2. Knowing he was about to die, Jacob had hope for the future.

3. Jacob knew that his descendants would be captive in a foreign land for 400 years.
    a) After which they would return to Canaan.
    b) Jacob had hope in God's promise.

4. **WOW!!!** One of these days we all stand on the edge of eternity, ready to move onto the next!!

5. ***1 Corinthians 3:10-15***

TWO LESSONS

#1 **WE WILL GET <u>OLD</u>**

a) As we get older we are weaned away from self-centeredness and self-worship.

b) We live in a very self-centered toxic culture!!!

c) Hopefully we grow wiser in the process of getting older.

#2 **GETTING OLD MAY BE <u>PAINFUL</u>**

a) Jacob lived a very painful life.
    1) One painful experience after another.