

# Living Out Our Faith – Hebrews 11

## Lesson 8: Jacob's Blessing Hebrews 11:21

- I. **The abbreviated account:** Jacob lived out his faith on his death bed by blessing Joseph's sons and worshipping the Lord as a pilgrim awaiting heaven – Hebrews 11:21.
- II. **The amplified account:** The dying patriarch blessed the two sons of his son Joseph by appointing them to serve as the heads of two of Israel's tribes – Genesis 48:1-22.
  - A. **The setting for the blessing:** On his death bed, the patriarch asked Joseph to bring his two sons, so he could extend them the blessing intended for his firstborn – 48:1-11.
  - B. **The selection for the blessing:** Israel trumped Ancient Near Eastern custom by giving his younger grandson Ephraim the blessing intended for the firstborn, instead of Manasseh – 48:12-14.
  - C. **The execution of the blessing:** The dying patriarch asked the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to prosper his grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh – 48:15-16.
  - D. **The focus of the blessing:** The blessing Israel bestowed on his grandsons gave substance to the promise that the Lord would eventually lead the nation back to the Promised Land – 48:21.
- III. **The necessary encounter:** The Lord had to bring the patriarch to a place of brokenness, in order to transform "Jacob", who was committed to manipulating his place in history, into "Israel", who would allow God to bless him – Genesis 32:1-29.
  - A. **The plans for a human encounter:** Jacob concocted a plan to dissuade his brother Esau's anger and buy his forgiveness – 32:1-21.
  - B. **The prelude to a divine encounter:** Jacob was left alone on one side of the Jabbok River after sending his entire family and all his possessions to the other side – 32:22-24a.
  - C. **A late night wrestling match:** An unidentified "man" dislocated the socket of Jacob's thigh after wrestling with him throughout the night without being able to break him of his self-will – 32:24b-25.
  - D. **A new name for a changed man:** The nameless wrestler changed Jacob's name to Israel after the patriarch insisted on being blest before he would release his opponent – 32:26-29.
- IV. **A return to the abbreviated account:** Jacob lived out his faith on his death bed by blessing Joseph's sons and worshipping the Lord as a pilgrim awaiting heaven – Hebrews 11:21.

**Conclusion:**