

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

### Faithfulness Through All Generations - Genesis 47:13-48:22 - "True Blessings in Terrible Times"

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?

If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?

2. Have you ever found yourself in an utterly desperate situation in your life?

What was the situation & how were you able to get out of it (or have somebody else provide a way out for you)?

In desperation, Egyptians offered themselves to serve Pharaoh; what is their response when Joseph agrees to this?

Why do you think they respond this way after giving up their freedom in order to be able to live?

How can all people relate to them & their dire predicament, but on an eternal level rather than purely temporal?

In light of the Gospel, what do we gain in exchange for giving our lives completely in service to the Lord?

As you "count the cost" of following Jesus, is it worth it to lose your life for Christ in order to save it?

3. Consider the statements Jacob makes to bless Joseph, Ephraim, and Manasseh in these two chapters:

How do Jacob's words reveal his understanding of the Lord's constant care for him & his hope in His faithful God?

How does his prophetic blessing reveal (once again) that God works according to His plans and not the ways of man?

Why should this encourage us as we consider that God works according to His purposes and not our ways?

Looking at Jacob's statements to Joseph in particular, how do they show His confidence that God will lead him too?

Why is this a part of a father's blessing, & what are we doing to instill that confidence in the next generation?

4. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these encourage, convict, or challenge you, & if so, how?

**The Egyptians desperately offer themselves to save their temporal lives!**

*We offer ourselves in desperation to Jesus for ETERNAL life!*

**God sustains/blesses His people even in hardship!**

*We choose to hope in Him in all seasons of life!*

**By God's design, Jacob blesses Ephraim (the younger) greater than Manasseh (the older)!**

*God graciously blesses according to His plans and not according to the ways of humanity!*

**Jacob hopes in the faithfulness of God to the very end!**

*We must remember that all hope rests in our faithful God!*

**Jacob encourages his son to trust in his God too!**

*We must teach our kids to trust in the Lord too!*