

Devotional Thoughts

Genesis 47:6

"The land of Egypt is before you. Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land; let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you know any competent men among them, then make them chief herdsman over my livestock."

Jacob and his eleven sons were given the best that Egypt had to offer. While the Egyptians suffered under the famine and were forced to forfeit their lands to the state in exchange for food, Jacob's sons were given the best pasture land. While jobs were scarce Jacob's sons were hired to be the chief herdsman for Pharaoh's flocks. In a time of great difficulty they were experiencing such blessings that Jacob predicted that the family would multiply greatly and become a strong nation. It is striking to me that the reason behind the favor they were enjoying was not their own merit but the work of another.

The same is true of us. We have forgiveness of sin, eternal life and the favor of God not based on our own work but due to association with Christ. All who are in relationship with Him are adopted sons and daughters of God and joint heirs with Jesus. We are no longer looked upon as strangers who live distant from God or as enemies who are fighting against God but we are viewed as children who are loved by God. All the favor of God is given to those who are his by relationship. It matters not the sins we have committed in the past. Throwing a brother in a pit or lying to dad about his death was not the issue, all that mattered was that Jacob and his sons were related to Joseph.

Sit back for a few moments and rejoice over the fact that you belong to God because of what Jesus has done for you. You are blood bought, highly favored child of God who has been given every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Jim