

Joseph's Bones The Bones of Hope - Part 2

Last time on "It's a Good Life," we started a study about Joseph's bones, "The Bones of Hope," and we left off looking at the subject of man's mortality, how that each person in this world will eventually die. And we saw that there were only two exceptions listed in the Word of God, and those two exceptions, of course, are Enoch and Elijah.

We also looked at the fact that riches cannot save a person or keep a person from dying. We looked at Luke 12:19-21 and we read about a rich man. He had a lot of goods. He was going to eat, drink, and be merry, but in Luke 12:20 it says, *²⁰But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? ²¹So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*

There's nothing wrong with being rich. The fact is that, if you put riches in front of God... or anything in front of God, if you choose anything over Jesus Christ as your Savior, you're wrong. There's nothing that can save a person from going to a devil's hell except Jesus Christ. The blood of Christ cleanses from all sin, the Bible says.

Well, we learn that people do die, that man is not immortal in the sense that this flesh is going to live forever, but we can also learn something else, that no man is indispensable in God's plan. Joseph was a very important person in the land of Egypt. Joseph had held the highest position in government and he was an important tool in God's hand for carrying out the history of Israel. However, Joseph was not indispensable in God's plans. He did not alter God's course for His people. Now, others have been equally prominent, but none

indispensable. I don't care how important a person is. God says one day you will die. And the Bible says, "What is your life? It's even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

Well, notice some more important people that we read of in the Word of God. We see Moses. Moses died and Joshua took over. In Joshua 1:1-2, it says, *¹Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, ²Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.*

Moses was important, but he died. Joshua was important, but as we keep reading in the Word of God, we see that even Joshua died. We also see King David. David was a very important person in God's plan, but King David died, and Solomon, his son, reigned in his place according to I Kings 2:2. It says, *I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man.* He's speaking to Solomon. And then in I Kings 2:10, it says, *So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.*

The Bible teaches us that God is no respecter of man. No one is above another when it comes to death. We all die physically. The rich man dies. I don't care how much money you've got; there comes a day and a time when this life is over according to the Word of God. I don't care how important a person is. The Bible says and God says, "I don't care how important you think you are; there's coming a time when you're going to die."

Of course, there is room in God's plan for everyone and there's a work for everyone to do. However, no one is indispensable in God's plan. His purposes are not dependent upon anyone. God can get along without us.

Now the Jews thought they were extremely important in God's scheme of things. However, we read in Matthew 3... I trust that you have your Bible with you. Matthew 3:7-10 says, *7But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

He says, "I don't care how important you think you are. I don't care whose son or daughter you think you are. You're not so important that you're not going to die. There comes a time when you're going to die."

And we, too, today need to be reminded of our rightful place. In Ecclesiastes 5:2-3 it says, *2Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. 3For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.*

In other words, don't be bragging about how great you are. No one is greater than God and we should not set ourselves up on a make-believe throne and make believe that we're better than anyone else, because we're all the same. We're all human beings.

And in the book of Romans, chapter 9, verses 20-24, it says, *20Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? 21Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? 22What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?*

In other words, it makes no difference who you are. Nobody is indispensable in God's plan. We can all be replaced. And we need to understand that as saved people we are no better than another saved person, that God has called us all for the same thing. He has called us to do His work here while on this Earth. The Bible says that we are ambassadors for Him. We are His workers, and we are created in Christ Jesus unto good works, that we are to live for Him and do what He has for us to do. No one is better than another, even saved or unsaved.

Now, our lot here on this Earth is to serve God acceptably. In Ecclesiastes 12:13, it says, *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

And we see that not only are people indispensable... in other words, they can be replaced. Nobody is more important than another. We also see that there comes a time in everybody's life when they die, but we can also learn that there's hope of deliverance. In Genesis 50:24, it says there, *And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely*

visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

After the death of Joseph, there arose a new king over Egypt who did not know Joseph, and because he feared the strength of Israel, he enslaved God's people. You can read about that in Exodus chapter 1 and chapter 2. You can look that up later on. And we see that not only did the king not know who Joseph was, but we see that Joseph's bones, lying in a tomb in Egypt, kept reminding them that God had promised to deliver them. It gave hope. And we might call Joseph's bones the bones of hope. As we look today to the Lord Jesus Christ, we have hope in Him.

If you've never trusted Him as your Savior, He can give you hope today. You look to Him. Look to the One who was crucified, buried, and resurrected. It makes no difference who else you look to, whether it be Mohammed, whether it would be somebody who is living today, whether it be the Dali Lama, whether it be some saint that you're worshiping, those saints, those people, those supposed gods, they've all died. They're not alive... if they ever existed... but we know that Jesus Christ is alive. He's given every one of us hope. Just as the children of Israel looked at Joseph's bones, the prophecy that was given that one day they, too, would be released from Egypt, they, too, would come out of that land and they would go to the homeland.

And you know, God has not given this Earth to us as our final destination. God has made a place for us. God does not want anybody to go anywhere else other than Heaven, but it's sad that so many people will not go there because they've never trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior.

If you've never trusted Christ as your Savior, the Bible says that you're not going to Heaven. The Bible says, For as many as received him,

to them gave he the power to become the sons or children of God. And if you've never trusted Him as your Savior, God is not your Father. God wants to be your Father. He wants to be your Heavenly Father. And the Bible says the only way to do that is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. The Bible says in Romans 10:13, *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* It doesn't mean that you'll be saved from physical death, but it means that you'll be saved from that spiritual death that is separating you right now from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. When you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, it makes no difference who you are... rich, young, poor, old... God wants to save you. You're not so important that you can save yourself. There's only one way to Heaven. Jesus Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me."

So if you want to be saved today, if you want to escape that spiritual death that's holding you... that one day will separate you forever from the love of God, then you need to receive the love of God right now by receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior. Ask Him to come into your heart today, and He'll save you. If you want to know more about this, go to the Website, www.LRWM.org, and on that Website you'll see how you can make sure of Heaven.

Well, it's been good being with you today, and let me invite you to tune in once again when you'll hear me say, "It is a good life." May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.