

**Genesis 32:10 says: I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast showed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.**

Surely, as Jacob worshipped he was praising God for all the wonderful way in which He had led him. Jacob remembered his sins, his follies and his mistakes, his testings, his fears and his doubts, but all the way through God had loved him and had been most gracious to him.

**Psalm 103:10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. Also Luke 7:47** Jacob's staff was a symbol of the Lord's unfailing mercy and tender care.

#### **4. THE WORSHIP OF FAITH IS MOVING TO BEHOLD AND IS ELOQUENT IN ITS APPEAL.**

Picture the scene again. Jacob is crying and his loved ones are gathered round him. Were there tears? Of course there were, for they would be moved, as we have been moved in the presence of some loved one who has bowed before the Lord and worshipped Him. Surely the faith of a dying loved one or friend appeals to the unsaved sinner to be reconciled to God and to be ready to go to the eternal city. **2 Corinthians 5:20**

#### **5. THE WORSHIP OF FAITH WILL SOON BE SUPERSEDED BY THE WORSHIP OF SIGHT.**

Faith will be lost in sight when from earth we arise to be forever with the Lord! What do they do who are already in His presence?

**Revelation 4:9-11, Revelation 5:9-14**

If we would be among that great company who see Him face to face and worship Him in Heaven, we must worship Him by faith in the dying hour; and if we would be ready for that time, we must learn to worship Him right here and now.

**Luke 2:28-30 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.**

## **Lesson 7 JACOB-THE WORSHIP OF FAITH**

(Hebrews 11:21; Genesis 47:27-31:48:1-22)

Although Jacob was in many ways the most outstanding of the Patriarchs, and the one who gave his name to Israel, it cannot be denied that in some respects he was the least attractive of them all. The mention of his name reminds us of his meanness and selfishness and of the complexity of his personality. It is the extremes in this man's character which startle us; and it is the inconsistencies in the lives of God's people which paralyze the Church and hinder the work of God today. How tragic to go to God's House on Sunday and to Satan's on Monday; to sing His praises on Sunday and to be mean and selfish in the home, the office or the shop on Monday! The self-life in Jacob was to be deplored, even as it is to be condemned, crucified and reckoned dead in us.

**Romans 6:11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

But in spite of all Jacob's failings, the principle of faith was constantly at work in his life. He was a man of far-seeing faith, for '**by faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons; and worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff.**'

In mentioning Jacob in Hebrews Eleven, the Holy Spirit selects a minute fragment of this man's life with which to illustrate his faith in God. No mention is made of all the amazing events which took place.

>>>in his earlier life - the stealing of his birthright. **Gen 25:30-34**

>>>the dream and the vision of the ladder at Bethel. **Gen 28:10-19**

>>>the years in Haran. **Genesis 29:15-30**

>>>the wrestling at Jabbok's ford. **Genesis 32:24-32**

>>>the severe discipline of trial and testing. **Gen 34:1-2, 35:18-19, Gen. 35:27-29, 37:32-34, 42:36**

The one point upon which our attention is focused is that of Jacob dying, blessing, worshipping, leaning! What a wonderful picture it is!

**Hebrews 11:21** By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

**Genesis 47:28** And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was an hundred forty and seven years.

What does it mean when it says, 'By faith Jacob, when he was dying ... worshipped'? It means that in his dying hour, when his poor body was tired and feeble, Jacob adored and praised God for all that He had been to him and had done for him (unworthy though he had been), and for the blessed prospect which the future held for him as a believer.

Notice **five things about the worship of faith**, as it appears in this closing scene of Jacob's life.

### **1. THE WORSHIP OF FAITH IS THE SUPREME ACTIVITY OF FAITH.**

Worship is the highest function of the human soul; even the angelic beings who dwell in the presence of the Lord can do nothing greater than worship Him.

**Isaiah 6:2-3** Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

The redeemed sinners in Heaven thrill with delight as they worship Him who alone is worthy to receive the adoration of His people. **Revelation 5:11-12**

The **one thing which counts most with the Lord** is not our service or our ceaseless activity, but the love, adoration and worship of our hearts. In this connection it may be good to ask ourselves: Why do we go to church? Is it to meet our friends? - to enjoy the service? - to listen to the sermon? - or is it primarily and supremely to worship God?

**John 4:23-24** But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

**Mk 14:3-9**

### **2. THE WORSHIP OF FAITH IS PRECIOUS WHEN IT IS PRESENT IN THE DYING HOUR.**

Jacob was 147 years old, weak, weary and ready to leave this earthly scene for his 'mansion in the skies'. How was he spending his last moments on earth? Worshipping! Many times during his life he deliberately bowed before the Lord to worship Him, notably at Bethel and at Peniel; but now, at the end of his earthly pilgrimage, he bowed before Him in whose presence he was shortly to pass, and worshipped Him. This is how a believer, a man or woman of faith, should die. **How?** - 'lost in wonder, love and praise!' How beautiful to die while enjoying perfect communion with the Lord! How great to die like Moody and to be able to say in the full confidence of faith; 'Earth recedes, Heaven opens before me. If this is death it is sweet. There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go. This is my triumph day, my coronation day.!'

On the other hand, how solemn to die an unbeliever, to come to that dread hour and to have no worship for Him who atone is worthy!

**Revelation 4:11** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

If you are an unbeliever you may trust in Him now, and revel in His love and mercy which is extended towards you.

**Matthew 11:28** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **Rev. 3:20**

The words of the well-known hymn are very apt here: Abide with me when night is nigh, For without Thee I dare not die.

### **3. THE WORSHIP OF FAITH IS DEEPENED BY THE REMEMBRANCE OF GOD'S PAST MERCIES.**

In **Hebrews 11:21** (By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.) there is a very significant phrase. We read that as Jacob worshipped he was 'leaning on the top of his staff.' He did this because he was frail and weak and needed support, but there is more to it than that.