

WHEN THE WAY OF BLESSING IS DIFFERENT THAN THE WAY WE WANT

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The WAY OF BLESSING



ISAIAH 55:8-9 NKJV

- ⁸“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.
⁹“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

GENESIS 48:1-20 ESV

- ¹After this, Joseph was told, “Behold, your father is ill.” So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
²And it was told to Jacob, “Your son Joseph has come to you.” Then Israel summoned his strength and sat up in bed.
³And Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,
⁴and said to me, ‘Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a company of peoples and will give this land to your offspring after you for an everlasting possession.’
⁵And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are.
⁶And the children that you fathered after them shall be yours. They shall be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.
⁷As for me, when I came from Paddan, to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was still some distance to go to Ephrath, and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).”
⁸When Israel saw Joseph’s sons, he said, “Who are these?”
⁹Joseph said to his father, “They are my sons, whom God has given me here.” And he said, “Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them.”

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- ¹⁰ Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. So Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.
- ¹¹ And Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face; and behold, God has let me see your offspring also.”
- ¹² Then Joseph removed them from his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.
- ¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel’s left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them near him.
- ¹⁴ And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn).
- ¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph and said,
 “The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked,
 the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,
¹⁶ the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys;
 and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers
 Abraham and Isaac;
 and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”
- ¹⁷ When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father’s hand to move it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head.
- ¹⁸ And Joseph said to his father, “Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.”
- ¹⁹ But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.”
- ²⁰ So he blessed them that day, saying,
 “By you Israel will pronounce blessings, saying,
 ‘God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.’”
 Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh.

PSALM 23:6 ESV

- ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
 forever.

ROMANS 8:28 NKJV

- ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God,
 to those who are the called according to His purpose.

MATTHEW 6:9-13 NKJV

- ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray:
 Our Father in heaven,
 Hallowed be Your name.
¹⁰ Your kingdom come.
 Your will be done
 On earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.
¹² And forgive us our debts,
 As we forgive our debtors.
¹³ And do not lead us into temptation,
 But deliver us from the evil one.
 For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

I don’t know what God is doing. He knows. We do not understand, but one thing I’m sure, He doesn’t make a mistake.
 – *Mother Teresa*

There are only two kinds of people: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, ‘All right, then, have it your way.’”
 – *C. S. Lewis, The Great Divorce*

Purpose

**LIVE OUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS AND
 INVITE OTHERS INTO LIFE WITH HIM**

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