

By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.
Hebrews 11:22

LOST & FOUND

I. A FUTURE HOPE

- The Genesis narrative ends with Joseph's body awaiting the promised exodus from Egypt (Gen. 15:13-14, 46:4, 50:24-25).
- During that exodus, Moses takes up his bones and subsequently Joshua buries them in the Promised Land (Ex. 13:19; Josh. 24:32).
- Joseph's faith is rewarded, even after death. God's promise was vindicated (Gen. 15:13-14; Heb. 11:22).

II. BY FAITH

- Joseph believed God and therefore he was looking for a better country (Heb. 11:13-16).
- Joseph was a stranger and exile in Egypt. He was a stranger and exile in this world.
- Every believer dies with promises still "hanging out there." Faith looks both backward and forward (Heb. 11:39-40).

III. FIXING OUR EYES

- We are looking forward to a city with foundations (Heb. 11:10).
- Our world tells us that waiting is wasting. God tells us that delayed gratification is what his kingdom is all about. Now we see as through a glass dimly, then we shall see face to face (1 Cor. 13:8-12).
- In this present world, it is "Faith seeking Understanding." It is "Believe in order that we may understand (Anselm, *Proslogium*; Augustine, *Confessions* 43.5).
- In this world, the Holy Spirit tells us to "Fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen" (2 Cor. 4:18).

KNOW: Genuine faith believes even when the promise has yet to be fulfilled. This is the nature of our faith, and the way of the cross.

DO: Fix your eyes on what is not yet seen. Our hope lies beyond the horizon.

Suggested Reading:

Songs of Heaven by Robert E. Coleman
(LifePoint Adult Library)

For Children:

Heaven: God's Promise for Me by Anne Graham Lotz
(LifePoint Kid's Library)

Next Week's Preaching Text: Exodus 12:21-32

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please Read Hebrews 11:22

1. What was Joseph's hope?
2. How did he demonstrate his faith in that hope?
3. Why, do you think, does God ask for faith in this world when he could just prove everything, and do everything, immediately?
4. How do we develop our faith?
5. What is our ultimate hope as Christ followers?
6. How can we encourage fellow believers when their faith is tried?
7. What, if anything, do you learn from the life of Joseph?