

Genesis 48

April 8, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Genesis 47:9 - Jacob said to Pharaoh: "The years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty; *few and unpleasant* have been the years of my life."

1. Life is a gift.

Genesis 37:2 - This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being *seventeen years old*, was feeding the flock with his brothers...

Psalms 139:16 - All the days *ordained for me* were written in Your book before one of them came to be.

T. D. Jakes: *"Each day is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift to Him."*

2. God's in control.

Genesis 25:23 - "The older (Esau) will serve the younger (Jacob)."

Genesis 15 - "Your descendants will be strangers in a foreign land, where they will be oppressed as slaves for 400 years... But after four generations *your descendants will return to this land*."

Psalms 37:3 - Trust in the Lord and do good.

Elisabeth Elliot: *"When I went back to my jungle station after the death of my first husband, Jim Elliot, I was faced with many confusions and uncertainties. I had a good many new roles, besides that of being a single parent and a widow. I was alone on a jungle station that Jim and I had manned together. I had to learn to do all kinds of things, which I wasn't trained or prepared in any way to do. **It was a great help to me simply to do the next thing.**"*

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Have you had the experience of feeling as if you've got far too many burdens to bear, far too many people to take care of, far too many things on your list to do? You just can't possibly do it, and you get in a panic and you just want to sit down and collapse in a pile and feel sorry for yourself.

Well, I've felt that way a good many times in my life, and I go back over and over again to an old Saxon inscription, which I'm told is carved in an old English chapel somewhere by the sea.

The poem says, "Do it immediately, do it with prayer, do it reliantly, casting all care. Do it with reverence, tracing His hand who placed it before thee with earnest command. Stayed on omnipotence, safe 'neath His wing, leave all resultings, do the next thing."

That's a wonderfully saving truth. Just do the next thing.

3. It's about God and people.

Matthew 20:16 - The last will be first and the first will be last.

Luke 18:14 - Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

2 Corinthians 12:10 - When I'm weak, then I'm strong.

Matthew 10:39 - Whoever loses their life for My sake will find it.