

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Jacob has Joseph swear to bury him in the Promised Land as a witness to himself and his family.

Sermon Point: *Give a graveside witness.*

Move 1: Parents, prepare your children for your death and burial.

Jacob knows he's nearing death, so prepares his children for what to do. Vs. 29-31a (49:29). Jacob makes his desires clearly known. Gen. 27: Isaac nearing death seeks to give blessing. Gen. 23: Abraham bought a cave to bury Sarah – only real parcel of land he ever owned was a Plot for the Patriarchs.

Move 2: Children, honor your parents at their death and burial.

Vs. 31: Joseph swore, “yes”, a Scriptural formality for solemn gestures. Such as Abraham w/ Abimelech in Gen. 21 and his servant in Gen. 24. Joseph carries it out: Gen. 50:5, 13 (Acts 7:15-16); 24-25 (Heb. 11:22).

Move 3: Your death and burial will communicate something.

Everything Jacob focuses on is rich with resurrection meaning:

- Lie w/ fathers: God's promises! Calvin, “ ... to testify that he was associated with them after death.”
- Swear: the importance of it.
- Vs. 31: bowing on head of bed was worship. Thanks God he will rest/be raised in Promised Land.
- No burial in Goshen. Expensive and inconvenient. Communicated to Egyptians -- and to Israelites.

Conclusion:

Calvin: “ ... the constancy of his faith appeared still more excellent, when he, commanding his dead body to be carried back to Canaan, encouraged his sons to hope for those who were alive and remained, as with the sound of a trumpet. For, to what purpose was this great care respecting his sepulcher, except that the promise of God might be confirmed to his posterity?”

Give a graveside witness.