

Daily Devotion For December 17, 2021

<sup>28</sup> All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each one according to the blessing suited to him." Genesis 49:28

Yesterday was the funeral service for Helen Nakano's daughter Susan. I have attended countless funeral and memorial services in over 30 years of pastoral ministry.

When I have met with family members to prepare a service for their loved one, I always ask if the deceased had any favorite hymns or favorite scripture passages. All too often, the family members didn't know. They struggled to think of hymns or scriptures that could be part of the service. Because of this, I always have a list of the most frequent scriptures and hymns.

As we have been studying the lives of Jacob and Joseph in our Thursday Night bible study we find Jacob's parting words to his sons recorded in Genesis 49:3-17. Jacob assesses his son's character and offers words of rebuke, correction, encouragement and hope. His words are described as a blessing, a call for each of his sons to seek a deeper relationship with God.

And then, in his final instructions, Jacob's Last Words details his burial.

**Thought For Today:** What are your favorite scripture verses and which passage would you like read at your funeral service? What are your favorite hymns and what would you like sung at your funeral service? Have you written them down and shared that with your family members to make it easier to you when your time comes?

**Today's Prayer Focus:** Continue to pray for comfort for Helen and her family at this sorrowful time for them. Deo Volente.