

GENESIS 47:7-9 BE A BLESSING

⁷ Then Joseph brought his father Jacob in and presented him before Pharaoh. After Jacob blessed Pharaoh, ⁸ Pharaoh asked him, "How old are you?"

⁹ And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty. My years have been few and difficult, and they do not equal the years of the pilgrimage of my fathers."

¹⁰ Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from his presence.

We read in Hebrews that *without a doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater* (7:7). Yet in this passage we have the Hebrew from Canaan, who has moved to Egypt to escape starvation, blessing Pharaoh, King of Egypt, not once but twice. Even more incredibly, Pharaoh appears to accept his blessing. At least he does not have Jacob killed for his arrogance.

The reader is required to recall that the entire success of Pharaoh during this period of drought was due to the God of Joseph, son of Jacob, who interpreted Pharaoh's dream and articulated the plan for success. The father of the one thorough whom God speaks is due even Pharaoh's respect.

For his part, Jacob knows who God is and how he has worked to bring him to this point. It is simply inconceivable that he would not offer God's blessing to the tool of God's providence.

Few of us are called to come into the presence of a person of the power of Pharaoh. But who among us does not hesitate when it comes to speaking God's blessing for fear of causing offense? Are we not convinced that God is the only God and that the one to whom we are speaking needs to know him? Or is it that we value our fellow man's opinion about us more than we value our relationship with God? Or possibly do we doubt that God will protect us? Whatever our excuse, we need to think again.

Dear Jesus, you are the hope of my life and the world. You are the answer to my needs for security and significance. As that is the biggest blessing in my life, give me the compassion and courage to share that blessing with everyone I meet. Amen.