

Where's Your Chair?

Genesis 49



I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants.
Psalm 116:12-13

Praising:

O sweet and blessed country, the
home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country,
that eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy brings us to that
dear land of rest;
who art, with God the Father, and
Spirit, ever blessed.

Reading:

Genesis 49
Jacob blesses his own sons

Jacob's death-bed benediction ties off an epic family drama. His poetic blessing identifies the character of the twelve Old Testament tribes of Israel in the person of each of their twelve ancestors – Jacob's sons. The tribe of Joseph is to be the most prosperous and the most populous. Having addressed each son in turn, Jacob issues his

final instructions about where he is to be buried and (surprise, surprise) it's at the family plot back in Canaan. There have been lots of twists and turns, and episodes of real domestic trauma and turmoil both for Jacob and for the family through which God promises to make a great nation. But in the end, for an old man who had certainly not got everything right, there is a measure of peace. In spite of Jacob's failings, God's will has been done.

Listening:

Praying:

We bring to God all those who are most closely part of our lives

- the ones we love and who love us, whose joy and sorrow is ours completely
- the ones we struggle to love, whose actions or attitudes leave us cold
- the ones who struggle to love us, whom we have hurt, taken for granted or neglected

Father: as I go through life people come and people go. Fill me with a sense that in every relationship whatever they might feel about me, I should always be a blessing to them. Amen Prayer

Doing:

Tuesday, 16 February 2016