

Uplifting Grace

Genesis 27:41-28:22

“God was with him, even though he was not aware of it. And that night—almost in spite of Jacob—God appeared to him to show that he was with him and would be with him wherever he should go.

As we look at Jacob’s experience, I want you to see that God is also with you. You may be on the verge of a mental collapse; but although you cannot sense it, God is with you right now. You may be quite ill. You may be misunderstood by your friends. You may be abandoned by a husband, a wife, or your children. Even the church may have turned its back on you. You may have lost a job. You may be discouraged. You may have so little self-worth that you feel that no one will ever care for you again. You may even be listening to the Old Yiddish proverb: ‘If one man calls you a donkey, pay him no heed. If two men call you a donkey, pay them no heed. If three men call you a donkey, buy a saddle.’ You may be ready to do that. You may have already bought the saddle.

I want you to hear God speaking. Where you are now can be a gate to heaven.” Boice

- I. The path that Jacob had to walk was God’s path of righteousness. He had to walk it alone, i.e., it was very personal, yet the Lord was with him every step of the way. His deception opened the door to hardship and servitude to Laban, the loss of never seeing his mother again and deception by Laban and his own sons down the road. It was 20 years before he was able to go home again. God could have spared Jacob from the hardships he endured, but it was necessary to make him into the man of God he needed to be. Jacob had to be broken of his selfish pride so that he could bear God’s fruit, his wonderful succulent righteous fruit. The same principle applies to us also. For the seed of the gospel to bear much fruit, it must be planted in the soil of a heart willing to die to self and live for Christ (Matt. 13:23).

Gen. 27:46-28:11

James 1:2-4

Gal. 3:13-14

Duet. 31:8

Psalm 139:7-10

John 12:24-26 *Truly, truly, I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a seed; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25Whoever loves his life will lose it, but whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.*

“The will of God is like an anvil. It is there for us to be conformed to. Just as a bar of metal can be bent on an anvil and thus be molded into something useful. But if we do not want to be conformed to the wise and holy will of God, then it is like us beating a piece of wood against the anvil. It is the wood – ourselves – and not the anvil that will be broken.” Boice

- II. Jacob's journey into the realm of a deeper faith relationship with God began with the Lord opening his eyes to His presence, power, and sovereign reign over all mankind. His faith needed to be rooted in a heartfelt understanding of the magnificence of God and the glory of His kingdom. He also needed to understand the seriousness of carrying the covenant promises of his grandfather Abraham. Jesus tells us that, *I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me* (Jn. 14:6). He is the bridge that came down from heaven to earth. He is the only way to heaven, the only bridge where it is possible for a man or woman to pass from earth to heaven as a redeemed, holy sanctified saint. "*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

Gen. 28:12-18

Heb. 1:14

John 1:45-51

John 1:51 *51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

- III. Jacob's vow to God was totally self-centered, yet it was the beginning of him coming to understand the magnitude of what it meant to have God as the Lord of his life. Even though he worshipped God and called the place Bethel, the house of God, he still had a lot to learn about humility, reverence and living God's will. As one of God's sanctified saints who had been set apart by God to be His very own, Jacob was now in the process of becoming more like Christ through the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit. It was not only necessary, but imperative for Jacob to willingly submit to God's will concerning the future of Israel and the birth of the Messiah.

Gen. 28:18-22

Romans 8:29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

Isaiah 25:1,9 *O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago...In that day they will say, Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.*