

Genesis: God and Man

The LORD Stood Above It

Genesis 28

Previously

- Jacob and Esau at odds over a birthright and a bowl of stew
- Isaac about to bless Esau
- Rebekah and Jacob scheme to get the birthright
- Birthright given, pity party blessing on Esau
- Esau comforts himself with thoughts of fratricide
- After all this, Rebekah concerned about who Jacob will marry...

Where have you come from? Family, residence, personally?

Where are you going? At least, where do you think you are going?

Are you stuck somewhere?

Is there something overshadowing you?

Are you running or returning?

Genesis 28:1-9

The first charge: find a wife in the right place

The real blessing

Despite all the conniving, heel catching, deceiving and scheming...here's what the true blessing was: The blessing *of* Abraham

An assembly of peoples, organized, increased

Inheriting the land as a stranger

That's a big deal, to inherit something that has nothing to do with your family pedigree, personal wealth or influence. A complete stranger is given the land

Sign of God's blessing in our lives

1. Salvation

Eph 2:11-13, 19 NKJV - Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by

the blood of Christ. ... Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

2. **God's favor**, inheriting things that weren't ours by other merit
Joseph
3. **Vast and amazing promises ours freely to receive**

You're a stranger now, but God already gave this land to Abraham

Isaac sent Jacob away

Abraham sent Hagar away

The flesh must go away and be transformed to inherit the spiritual things

- Abraham had to leave his home country
- Jesus tempted in the wilderness right after being revealed
- Paul in the desert

Gal 1:11-19 NKJV - But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught [it], but [it came] through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and [tried to] destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called [me] through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those [who were] apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Paul knew Scripture thoroughly, but the truth that Jesus was the promised Messiah made him reconsider the foundation he'd been trusting. Everything he knew about God had to be reevaluated in light of this new information. - Charles Stanley, the Road of Discipleship

The deep things of God can only be learned from God himself.

Humans can be great instructors, and prayerfully God can and will use them. For good and bad.

But the greatest and truest teacher is the Holy Spirit via the Word of God

1Jo 2:27 NKJV - But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

The greatest lie in history is that you need someone else to teach you, someone other than Jesus to be your mediator

1Ti 2:5-7 NKJV - For [there is] one God and one Mediator between God and men, [the] Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle--I am speaking the truth in Christ [and] not lying--a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Not that we don't need human teachers, pastors, friends, fellowship, instruction, correction, etc...but the greatest teacher is God

The only one who can truly teach you anything, deep down. The only one who can make you truly get it. Is Jesus. No one else can touch your heart, speak directly to it.

Padam Aram "field" region of Syria

Jacob obeys his father and mother and goes.

He had a little motive, some incentive with his brother wanting him dead
But still, he did the right thing.

This rivalry is so deeply rooted, his brother Esau tries to obey his parents now

Esau is finally getting it that his fleshly wives from the pagan lands are not pleasing to his parents

So what does he do? He just takes ANOTHER wife. That seems like the right thing to do
Esau, good job...no, not the right thing to do.

Two wrongs don't make a right. You can't cover up a fleshly mistake with another fleshly effort.

People try and fix their marriages
Make things right at work
Patch things up

It'll never undo what was done. It will always be a constant effort of upkeep, and when you fail at the upkeep...that's it, back to square one. Always trying to earn trust and forgiveness.

The Spirit can overrule those fleshly mistakes. Put new life in those bad decisions.

A marriage of the flesh can be transformed into a marriage by the Spirit. Not by trying to marry someone else.

And where does Esau think the best place to find ANOTHER wife is?

ISHMAEL**Family, sure...but family of THE FLESH****You can try to imitate the will of God, the Spirit of God by doing things in the family of God**

Feeding the poor, "loving" your neighbor,

The world is full of these seemingly good pursuits of so-called "social justice"

But unless it's built on the gospel, it's shifting sand

That feeding the poor becomes enabling or enslaving them

That loving your neighbor becomes tolerating their sin until they have no need for the gospel

That caring for the planet ends up coming at the expense of human life

That reaching across the aisle becomes being on the other side of the aisle

You cannot conjure up the Spirit of God.**Fleshly motives cannot create the life of the Spirit.****Jhn 3:8 NKJV - "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."****Jer 17:9-10 NKJV - "The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, [I] test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings."****We must let God decipher our motives, show us if what we desire, will to do, want to do, is indeed the right way.****There's always a third way.**

We often think it's either A or B in life. Often it's the C we never thought of, the answer God has for us.

Heb 4:12 NKJV - For the word of God [is] living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The third way is always a restful way by the spirit. Where the first and second ways are full of effort, strife and usually cutting off of others instead of ourselves.

:10-15

Jacob heads out northward

Came to a place because the sun had set

Ever end up somewhere just because that's as far as you made it?

Buffalo, Wyoming story

Put a stone to lay down for his pillow

He came from a nomadic lineage

People who dwelled in tents

Yet he's outside, sleeping on a rock.

He had the blessing, but his life was now empty

There was no plan ahead. There was no caravan. There was no Holiday Inn & Suites

Jacob, now out on his own. No longer in the tent with his mom, out sleeping on a rock.

I think Esau would have put together a little more of an accommodation being an outdoors guy.

A lean to perhaps?

Seeing how unprepared people are for situations in life is a bit uncanny

I think back to previous times in my life when I would be stuck out in the cold. Car broken down.

Without a job, etc. I'm sure there are still parts of my life that are exposed that I need to get up off the rock and build a little shelter in for my loved ones.

He dreamed

Dude must have been weary to fall asleep and dream on a rock

Ladder set up on the earth

Stair case, ladder

Stairway to heaven anyone?

Just picture this. The earth, a giant ladder/stairway to heaven

Epic

Angels of God going up and down on it.

Earth to Heaven to Earth.

This is no space elevator. This is to the third Heaven, the spiritual dimension

Remember the tower of babel, trying to build their own gateway to heaven?

Behold, the LORD stood above it

Jhn 3:13-15 NKJV - "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, [that is], the Son of Man who is in heaven. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, "that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Where else do we see God standing in heaven? At Stephen's death in Acts 7

God tells him who he is. The God of Abraham and Isaac (and one day of Jacob)

God let his trip fall short here to speak to him.

God allowed his weariness and emptiness in the wilderness to be a place of filling
And of foretelling

Every direction

Dust of the earth

Messianic prophecy of the seed and everyone being blessed

The inheritance for him and the nation to come specifically, was always to bless everyone

The physical location blessing, the familial blessing was personally to them that God might reach every family, every person, and every location and in every time.

Gen 28:15 NKJV - "Behold, I [am] with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

God reminds him of the blessing, but makes it extremely personal.

To a guy leaving his country all alone. Who's parents had to kick him out, who's brother wants him dead, who is in mid-life and finds himself broke, sleeping on a rock in a place that is only as far as he could get that day...

God will not leave him, nor forsake him.

Having my head on a "rock" and getting that promise

God will bring him back

God will be the one doing all the he promised

In all of this, through all of this - past, present and future

God was saying, God was showing that He alone

Stood Above it

:16-22

A real look into the spiritual world

This wasn't just a dream

God likes to use sleep, rest, and dreams as avenues to speak into our lives

Adam and Eve

Abraham falling asleep with the sacrificial elements

Jacob's dream

Peter dozing before lunch

John praying on Patmos

"Surely the LORD is in this place and I did not know it"

Yada, know, perceive, make known

How often do we think God isn't there...we're sleeping on a rock

But in fact, he is right there and doing amazing things just beyond our vision

Luke 9:58...foxes have dens but the son of man has no place to lay his head

Jesus's earthly life would experience all that that Jacob was experiencing

How awesome is this place?!

Transfiguration, tents

This is none other than the house of God (Bethel)

The Gate of Heaven

Physical places and spiritual connections

Rev 2:13...

Heaven's gate cult, mass suicide, ufo...founder used to be into biblical prophecy

So yes, don't go everywhere you don't have to. No need to visit those spiritual shrines to false gods. Yes, God is bigger, He who is in you is greater, but you seriously don't need to have anything to do with it. Even if the architecture is something to behold.

Such an amazing revelation, yet we see that Jacob knows how God is, but doesn't quite have that personal, or the deepest relationship with him (his actions in the previous chapters show that, too)

He makes an altar to remember it, the pouring of oil symbolic of the Holy Spirit's influence, blessing and touch there.

He's trying to make a deal with God

Not that God is against trying to work it out with man

Isa 1:18-20 NKJV - "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

**Jacob doesn't believe God's promise
IF God WILL be with me**

Jacob, GOD SAID HE'D BE WITH YOU

You somehow doubt this vision?

**We tend to put our own shortcomings and failures and sinful ways on God.
Jacob was not someone to be trusted. Jacob lied. Jacob wasn't a man of his word in a way. He would use his words to deceive and get what he wanted.**

He feared God would be the same.

We tend to think God is like us and make him out to be in our image

If God is loving why would he do that...because we think we are somehow more loving than God because we don't understand a tragedy in the world

But we're at the bottom of the ladder looking up. He's at the top and sees it all.

Bread to eat, clothing

Matthew 6

That I may come back to my father's house in peace

He longed to return. He never wanted to leave. And he wants peace, even if it's only for selfish reasons.

How could you not want peace with your twin brother?

I always implore my kids to always forgive their siblings throughout their lives

He set the stone, it must be something obvious to him, maybe him only, that on his way back, he'd pass it, remember it, and worship there with a tithe

Again, we see tithing (Abraham) as something people understood and practiced before the Law.

It's important to recognize where our blessings come from

Sometimes we don't see that what we have is a blessing because we didn't pray beforehand. We didn't seek an answer or his provision beforehand so that when we come back to it, it's just a stone like any other.

God can turn any stone into bread for us Matthew 4:3

God can turn any stone into a son of Abraham Matthew 3:9

Luk 19:40-42 NKJV - But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things [that make] for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

God wants our spiritual eyes to be open to see that He's above it all

To hear that he's promising good for us, to always be with us. Now and forever.

And for us to believe him at his word, to trust Him right away and not wait and prolong and waste years testing him out.

But he is patient. He is kind. He will wait for us. But only he knows how much time we have.

Don't let it be too late.

Accept him. Believe him. Listen to him.

2Co 6:2 NKJV - For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.