

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

God's Plans > Our Expectations - Genesis 27:46-28:22 - "An Unexpected Visit"

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. Can you think of a time in your life when you had an encounter with the Lord that you found to be deeply personally significant?
If so, what made that experience so significant to you, and does that place hold a special place in your heart?
Did that experience lead you to believe there was something special about the physical location where this happened?
Have you ever been tempted to make more of this location than the God who worked there?
3. More broadly - can you think of places in the world (in the church or otherwise) where this has been the case?
Consider the events of Genesis 28 and Jacob's response to God's revelation to him in Bethel (formerly Luz).
In light of the history of Bethel & the idolatry that would take place, how can we guard against this in our own lives?
3. Jacob's response to God's promises to him is clear obedience (even though he may not fully grasp what it all means at this time):
What is the correlation between our love of God and responding to Him obediently in our lives?
How does rightly understanding God's promises to us motivate us toward greater obedience even when it's hard?
Are there areas in your life where you know you are living in disobedience to the Word of God & His commands?
**If so, confess this, and pray for the Lord to help you to rightly understand His goodness & for strength to obey.*
4. For the benediction, I shared 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - please read these verses.
How do these verses fit in light of Genesis 28? (*Remember the meaning of Jacob's name and how he's lived to this point)
As you consider the list in verses 9-10 & Jesus' teachings throughout His Sermon on the Mount, do you deserve condemnation?
Now read verse 11 - how does the tense of the verb in the first sentence cause us to see our identity in Christ clearly?
How do we practically live in light of who we are in Christ as opposed to who we were when we were dead in sin?
5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
God graciously makes great promises to Jacob!
God promises life in Him for all who trust Him!
Jacob responds to God's promises obediently!
True trust/faith in the Lord lead to obedience!
Jacob celebrates this place where He saw God!
Places can be corrupted by sin; God cannot!
The ladder to God is none other than Jesus!
Trust in Jesus; He alone is the way, truth, & life!