

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

God's Plans > Our Expectations - Genesis 31:17-55 - "Hurdles on the Journey Home"

- 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. Have you ever stepped out in obedience to the Lord to find yourself facing serious obstacles along the way?**
Did it deter you from continuing on obediently, increase your resolve to persevere, or have little impact either way?
Did you learn anything about yourself or the Lord that enabled you to grow through the experience?
What are some of the potential obstacles that Jacob faces as he steps out to obey the Lord and journey toward home?
How does he respond as these obstacles arise in the immediate aftermath of his obedience to the Lord in Gen. 31?
- 3. Mention is made in this chapter of Rachel stealing her father's (Laban's) gods as she prepared to depart with Jacob.**
Do you ever find it difficult (like Rachel did here) to walk away from your old ways of life & move forward exclusively in Christ?
What are some specific areas where you find yourself consistently tempted to return to your former ways?
Why do you think some of these temptations are difficult to resist in your life?
What are some intentional steps you can take to resist those temptations and instead cling to Christ alone in your life?
**Consider John 3:1-15, Romans 8:5-17, Galatians 5:13-25, and Ephesians 4:17-32*
- 4. As you look at this story, where specifically do you see God's mercy on full display toward each of the main characters mentioned?**
As you consider the people themselves, where do you see how God's mercy is given to a people who are undeserving of it?
As you look at your own life, where do you see God granting mercy to you even though you are undeserving of it?
**Remember that mercy, by definition, is given to those who are undeserving (especially from a holy God to sinful people)*
How does God's mercy unto us result in our praise of Him and God alone getting all of the glory for the outcome?
In light of God's mercy to us, how are we to live? (Consider Romans 12:1-2)
- 5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?**
Jacob trusts God to deal with Laban's scheming!
God sees it all; so take heart and trust Him!
Jacob obeys even with the threat of hard times!
Obey God even as the journey gets difficult!
God's mercy is given to undeserving people!
Perfection is in Christ; all others need mercy!