

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

God's Plans > Our Expectations - Genesis 35:1-29 - "A Vow Renewed"

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 made a commitment to somebody and then failed to follow-through?
What was the situation and how did things end up working out in that situation?
Have you ever done this in your relationship with the Lord - committed yourself to Him & then failed to do what you said?
How did the Lord work to draw you back to Himself and cause you to remember your commitment to Him?
How did you ultimately respond to strive to make things right again with the Lord?
What role do you believe the Holy Spirit had in drawing you back to Him and in empowering you to greater faithfulness?
3. Consider the interactions that Jacob has with the Lord from Genesis 35:1-15 and his statements in Gen. 28:19-22.
How does Jacob's response to God in Genesis 35:2-4 reveal a potential failure of Jacob to follow through on his previous word?
How does his (& his family's) response reveal a good and commendable character in Jacob at this point?
What is the result of Jacob's obedience to get rid of the foreign gods among his household and lead them all to go to Bethel?
What does all of this reveal about the character of our God and how He deals with His people regarding their sin?
Consider Jacob's command to his household to "put away the foreign gods" and "purify [themselves]" - why does this matter?
As you think about your own life, are there any idols (false gods) that you've been unwilling to surrender for the Lord?
What are these "gods" in your life, and why has it been so hard for you to forsake them and pursue the Lord alone?
How does God respond to those who repent of their sins and turn back to Him?
What passages of Scripture have shaped your understanding of how God responds to those who turn to Him?
4. How is God's intervention in Jacob's life beneficial for him and his entire household?
What specific ways does God bless them, and how does God's blessing of them also result in a blessing for the whole world?
How does this whole narrative help us to see that God's goodness persists even when people fail to do/be good?
How does the Gospel relate to this specific story and how does that reveal God's goodness (& humanity's need of Him)?
5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
GOD **PURSUES** HIS PEOPLE!
GOD IS **PERSISTENT** WITH HIS PEOPLE!
GOD IS **PATIENT** TOWARD HIS PEOPLE!
GOD IS **PROFITABLE** FOR HIS PEOPLE!
Sincere repentance is met by God with mercy, grace, and abundant life in Christ!