

November 3, 2024 Worship Service Pastor Bruce Adrian WeAreLifeBridge.com

JACOB: God's Rascal in the Grip of God's Grace

Lesson Seven • Genesis 28:10-22

Grace for the Journey

Jacob's Journey

Sometimes <u>WE</u> think we're on one kind of journey, but it turns out GOD has us on a very different kind of journey.

Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. Genesis 28:10

Jacob thinks he's on a geographical journey from Beersheba to Haran, but God has him on a spiritual journey from "Jacob" to "Israel".

Like Jacob, you may think you're simply trying to get from point A to point B, but God wants to change you from person A to person B.

Grace for the Journey

1. God's Grace Is SURPRISING When We Least Expect!

Jacob's Situation

Jacob came to a certain place for the night because the sun had \underline{SET} , which is symbolic of what has happened in his life (v. 11).

Jacob's Dream

- > Jacob saw a <u>STAIRWAY</u> stretching from earth to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it (v. 12).
- Jacob heard God confirm His <u>PROMISE</u> of blessing in its full provision (v. 13-15).

2. God's Grace Is OVERWHELMING When We Awaken to It!

Jacob's Confession

Jacob confessed in \underline{AWE} and \underline{FEAR} the awesomeness and significance of God's presence "in this place" (v. 16-17).

3. God's Grace Is LIFE-CHANGING When We Respond to It!

Jacob's Response

- > Jacob <u>WORSHIPED</u> the Lord by turning his pillow of stone into a pillar of remembrance (v. 18-19).
- > Jacob made a <u>VOW</u> to the Lord by devoting his life to worship the Lord and give to the Lord (v. 20-22).

To All the "Jacobs" in the World

God meets you where you are with grace, but He does not want to leave you there as you are. God wants to <u>CHANGE</u> you to be a blessing to the world.

Stairway to Heaven

<u>JESUS</u> is the ladder, the stairway to heaven, by which we can be reconciled to God and be brought to heaven.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." ~Jesus, John 1:51

Takeaway

The faithfulness of God in Christ demands the fullness of our <u>DEVOTION</u> to Christ: the fullness of our hope in Christ, the fullness of our surrender to Christ, and the fullness of our worship of Christ.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1