

## Away From the World

June 19, 2011  
Genesis 31:17–55

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)  
Pastor Mark Turner

In the world but not of the world...

John 15:19; 17:19

- I. How to Know God's Will in Your Life
  - A. There will be a definite desire or conviction
    - Jacob was fairly passive. Gen 29:20
    - Clear command that Land was home Gen 28:15
    - Desire rose after birth of Joseph Gen 30:25
  - B. Circumstances may guide
    - God blessed Jacob richly Gen 30:43
    - That prosperity caused tension Gen 31:1-2
  - C. God's Word will Instruct
    - God gave Jacob His Word Gen 31:3, 13
    - God guides us today thru Bible (2 Pet 1:19; [2 Pet 1:3ff] 2 Tim 3:16)
- II. God Graciously Protects His Own From the World
  - A. We need God's gracious protection because the world is a dangerous and formidable enemy!
    - Laban represents the world: crafty, uses God for convenience
    - Jacob runs when he can. Gen 31:19-21
    - Laban pursues Jacob! Gen 31:22-24
    - God protects Jacob. Gen 31:24,29
  - B. We need God's gracious protection because we are so much like the world!
    - We are much like Jacob, Rachel, Laban in character. Gen 31:30-32
    - Rachel stole idols 1) wouldn't give up idols completely 2) control of family inheritance. [failure to trust God]
    - God shows grace despite lack of faithfulness = Gospel: God shows grace to us ONLY due to merit of Christ on our behalf!
- III. God's People Need to Live Separate From the World
  - A. Separation from the world often requires a clean break  
What is the clean break you need to make with the world?
  - B. Separation from the world requires us to Serve Only God!  
Gen 31:53; 1 Pet 3:15

Ask Yourself: How am I like...

Laban: uses God for own benefit when convenient, god is SELF comfort

Rachel: know God but clings to idols for comfort, life is not very distinct

Jacob: seeking to obey God and be separate from world, but fears tend to enslave, often caught in conflict between Godliness & world

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