

Bible Summary - Genesis 28

Jacob is on the run because he lied and deceived his blind father to steal his brother Esau's blessing. Esau's anger has become murderous and Rebecca sends Jacob to live with her brother to protect him. Jacob is penniless, directionless, homeless, and valueless morally. It is in this deep dark valley that God comes and stands beside him while promising to bless, protect and be with him. Genesis 28 is a chapter that reveals the radical nature of God and His disposition toward sinners. Often, we think that God cannot be in the presence of sin so He must have His back toward us but Genesis would argue the opposite. God rushes to Adam and Eve after they sin. God marks Cain with a protective mark after he murders Abel and here God appears to Jacob when he is at his worst. Ultimately, the Cross tells us that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. This is the Father's posture toward us.

Scripture Genesis 28:10-17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 30:12-18, 57:17-19; Hosea 2:21-23; Romans 9:25-26; Romans 2:4

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

- 1) Each of us bring preconceived ideas to our interpretation of scripture based on our backgrounds and life experiences. How does your presupposition about God's character alter how approach Him?
 - a) Has Sunday's message given you reason to question your presupposition? And how?
- 2) How in your life have you seen God standing by you when you've not been faithful or when you've been at the lowest point of your life?
- 3) Did Jacob earn God's blessing?
 - a) Why do we feel we need to earn people's blessings or even the blessing of God?
- 4) Jacob built an altar to commemorate his encounter with God. What are some tangible reminders that you have built in your own life to commemorate your encounters with God?
- 5) God is the great Reconciler and we've also been charged in 2 Cor. 5:18 to have a ministry of reconciliation.. Do you consciously in your relationships seek to reconcile with others?
 - a) How far do you go to reconcile with others?