

(Genesis 35)  
“Faith & Obedience”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: “Faith & Obedience”
  - (Genesis 35:1-29) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

IN OUR LAST STUDY...

- We learned that God is working out His plan...
  - Thru the seasons of our lives.
- And in tonight's study...
  - This is still taking place in Jacobs life.

BUT... WHAT'S DIFFERENT...

- Is that Jacob is being called to new steps of faith...
  - AND we witness that these steps of faith...
    - Also bring new problems & trails into his life.

NOW...

- Since we are doing an overview of the OT...
  - It's important to add a side note here...
    - To help us retain the flow of the story.
- While we have been focusing on Jacob since (Gen.27)...
  - God is moving him off center stage thru this chapter...
    - And Joseph will emerges as the last patriarch...
      - In (Gen. 37 – 50)
        - Which bridges us into (Exodus).

~ STUDY ~

LET'S STRING THE STORY TOGETHER AGAIN...

- In (Gen. 33) Jacob humbles himself before Esau...
  - And is forgiven by his brother...
    - And Jacobs fear is reduced.

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- But in (Gen. 34) we witnessed more family challenges...
  - As Dinah was raped & her brothers (Simeon & Levi)...
    - Did a revenge killing upon the entire town of Shechem.
- This drove Jacob right back into a place of fear and panic...
  - As he wrestled with the “what if’s of life”.

AND RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS CHAOS...

- (Gen. 35) God speaks to Jacob and directs him back to Bethel.
  - The place of worship & hearing the voice of God!

**HERE’S THE NEXT LAYER OF THE STORY:**

**IDEA #1 – LESSONS OF FAITH:**

Read (vv.1-7)

PART OF MATURING AS A CHRISTIAN...

- Is learning that my prayers are not always for getting out of something.
  - *God help me get out of this – NOW!!!*

RATHER...

- As we grow in faith...we learn to ask for understanding...
  - *God what are You doing in my life thru this?*
- Father what do you want me to see in this situation?
- Father help me understand how you’re changing me.
- Father give me more grace to embrace Your will.

JACOB WAS LEARNING THIS!

- God was showing Jacob that he could worship when worry strikes.

**WHERE’S THE PLACE YOU RUN TO...**

- To hear from God?

NOTICE IN (v.2)...

- Jacob started leading his family again.
  - He got serious about walking by faith.
- He told his family to get rid of things that divided their heart...

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- Take a bath & change clothes.
  - It represents a new beginning.

**DON'T MISS THE WISDOM HERE...**

- Many problems in the Christian life...
  - Are a result of partial obedience.
- We know what God wants us to do...
  - And we may even start to do it.
    - But then we stop and things we started begin to die.
      - The Church in Sardis (Rev. 3:2) NKJV

**IDEA #2 – LASTING PROMISES:**

Read (vv.9-15)

(v.10)

I LOVE THIS ABOUT GOD!

- He never forgets the promises He makes to us.

JACOB WAS A CHANGED MAN BECAUSE OF GOD...

- No longer Jacob... but Israel.
  - Don't forget the saving grace God has given you!
    - Go forward and live out the new life you have in Jesus.

(v.11)

GOD TOLD JACOB TO BE FRUITFUL...

(v.12)

THE INHERITANCE OF LAND...

- Is brought back to Jacobs life.

BOTH OF THESE THINGS...

- Stirred Jacob up to renew his faith in God...
  - And he worships (vv.14-15).

**IDEA #3 – HUMAN PROBLEMS:**

(v.19) Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin the twelfth son of Israel.

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- The grievous loss of a parent or a child.
  - Scars that we bear until we leave this world.

(v.22) Ruben Jacobs oldest son sleeps with his concubine.

- The painful obstacles of sexual sin within families.
  - This act was interpreted as Ruben attempting to take over...
    - As head of the family.

(v.29) Isaac... Jacobs dad dies and is buried.

- The cycles of life as an aged parent dies...
  - And the next generation is called upon to move forward.

ALL OF THESE SITUATIONS...

- Occur in our world this side of heaven.
  - And it's important to understand that God cares...
    - And as we let Him...
      - He helps us with the pain.

~ IN CLOSING ~

(Job 1:9-10) NKJV

- May you come to understand that walking with God...
  - Goes beyond a trouble-free life.

RATHER...

- It is in the difficulties of everyday life where we...
  - Learn to obey & trust God for who He is.

AMEN!