

c. What would it mean for you to (figuratively) “come back home” to where that “Bethel moment” occurred?

Sermon Notes

“Jacob Meets the LORD”

Genesis 28:10-22

May 31, 2020

Introduction

Let's Pray:

Jeff and Terri Sprecher family, Mission Impact, Guatemala

Pray as they work to meet people's needs, responding to the pandemic in Guatemala by sewing face masks, donating a variety of stocked medical supplies. The teachers are distributing groceries to needy families.

In light of the highly publicized recent deaths of two black men, George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery, and the chaotic protests that have erupted across the nation, let's pray ...

- for those charged with administering the peculiar combination of God's justice and mercy in these situations that they might do so with great wisdom (Rom. 13:4);
- for such tragic murders to cease as a result of the transformative work of the Gospel changing people's lives, views and reactions, as well as changing any systems negatively impacted by the same (Rom, 12:2);
- for the destructive violence in protests to cease, for the protection of citizens, officers, and property alike, and that significant progress on these crucial issues might be achieved from substantive dialogue between protestors and those with governing authority (1 Tim. 2:2).

Here is what Jacob learns from this encounter:

1. The LORD God ...
2. The LORD God ...
3. The LORD God ...

Conclusion

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 05-31-20

Questions adapted from Michael Kelley, et al., eds., Gospel Foundations: The God who Creates, LifeWay Press, Nashville, TN, 2018, pp. 67; Nancy Guthrie, The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2011, pp. 206; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: Genesis, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, p. 158-159.

Getting Started:

1. What sort of doubts have you encountered (either personally or in others) during these difficult days?

Digging Deeper:

Read Genesis 28.

2. Briefly list the promises God made to Jacob at Bethel (Gen. 28:13-15).

3. Jacob was beginning to know God as his fathers had known him.

- a. What did he do in response to what he had learned (28:16-22)?

- b. What positive signs do you see, and in what ways does Jacob still need to grow (28:16-22)?

- c. Some people think Jacob's response to God (28:18-22) shows great faith and commitment, while others think it reflects a distorted view of God. What do you think, and why?

- d. Is it possible to experience God's presence and not be changed? Why or why not?

4. Consider the question Pastor Bryan asked, "Is there a 'Bethel moment' in your history with God"? An occasion or time period when you suddenly became aware that he was real, that he knew you, had set his affection on you, and was pursuing you?

- a. If so, when was that? What were the circumstances?

- b. Is that "Bethel moment" something God is calling you back to, like he did in Jacob's life (Gen. 31:13)? How so?