

Game Changing Faith

Week 7: Jacob

Jacob - Trusting God and receiving the blessing.

By Faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on top of his staff - Hebrews 11: 22

Introduction - Middle school Mishaps

Who is Jacob?

Quick Bible Family Tree update -

- **Adam and Eve**

(9 generations later) **Noah**

(10 generations later) **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob,**

(9 generations later) **King David**

(26 generations later) **JESUS**

Jacob's back story (Genesis 25:19 - 28:9)

- Twin born to Isaac, brother named Esau
- bought Esau's birthright for a bowl of soup (tricked him)
- Stole Esau's blessing by dressing up like Esau when Isaac was old and blind
- Esau plots to Kill Jacob (can't imagine why!)
- Rebekah (Jacobs mom) sends him 400 miles away to her brother Laban

When we scheme and toil for our own glory, it often turns into a mess!

Where have you taken some bad advise or pursued your own interests instead of Gods lately?

Jacob's Ladder (Genesis 28:10-22)

- On the 400 mile Journey, God appears to Jacob in a dream
- God reaffirms his promise to Abraham and Isaac and now to Jacob
- He will bless him and be with him wherever he goes
- This land he is in will be his inheritance

Jacob's confidence (Genesis 28:15)

- God promises to bless Jacob
- Jacob believes God and its played out over chapter 29 as he pursues Rachel!
- John 14:12-14 - 12 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

Jacob heard God, and took Him at His word. We can see Jacobs confidence in the Lord during the next few chapters. Are we willing to Trust God's word enough to look foolish?

Jacob and Rachel (Genesis 29:1-21)

- Racheal was a shepherdess and Laban's youngest daughter
- Leah was the older sister
- Racheal was beautiful in form and face; Leah's eyes were dim
- Jacob worked for Laban 7 years in order to marry Rachel

Jacob was smitten with Rachel to say the least. What is something in your life right now that you are "smitten" with. Perhaps something you think about "all the time". What would it look like to surrender that to the Lord?

Treachery is Afoot (Genesis 29:22-27)

- On the wedding night, Laban switches Leaf for Racheal
- Jacob Marries Leah on accident! HE'S BEEN FOOLED!!

Ever been burned? Think about a time you've been tricked or even, just when things didn't work out the way you thought they should. Did it make you timid the next time?

Decision Time

- Jacob could have rejected Leah
- He instead kept her and agreed to work another 7 years for Racheal although he was able to marry her just a week later
- Jacob was focused on Racheal as his prize

It's good to be persistent, but was he ignoring what God was doing?

Focus on the right prize

- Jacob was focused on Racheal as his prize
- If our Prize is a person, or a thing, or the results of our actions, we'll never be satisfied.
- If our Prize is Jesus and knowing him More, we can't fail!

What is something that you want more than anything? Will you trust Jesus to take care of that in his perfect way and timing, even if you never get it?

Our Call and Our reward

- we are ALL called By God, To God, and For God
- Our Reward = Jesus and knowing him more

John 14:21 - 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

Philippians 3: 7-10 - 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness

Our Job vs. God's job

- God wants to lead us
- Ephesians 2:10 - 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

God's Job

Speak
Directs
Work all thing to the good

Our Job

Listen
Obey
Trust (have faith)

Freedom from obedience and Trust

- When we do our part and trust God to do His part, we have ultimate freedom!
- When God is in His rightful place as our Lord, we are able through trust to take risks and dare to look foolish or be wrong. The results are up to Him!

Jacobs peace

Hebrews 11: 22- By Faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, *and worshiped, leaning on top of his staff*

- Jacob blesses Joseph's sons and gives them part of the inheritance too! even though he didn't even possess the land yet! But he believed God would keep his word so he blessed in Faith!

Our Goal = Faithful Obedience, Our Reward = Christ.

- When we are willing to say yes and have a right reward in mind, we can faithfully take risks for the Lord and grow our Faith as we grow our relationship with HIM

SO....

Lets be a people or listen to God, Do what He says, and Trust HIM to take care of the results. Let's take risks, dare to look foolish or even fail, knowing that our obedience alone pleases our Father and He will work all things to the good of those who love Him!