

Sermon Notes

04/28/24

Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father." ² And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been.

³ Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you."

⁴ So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the fields where his flocks were. ⁵ He said to them, "I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me. ⁶ You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength, ⁷ yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However, God has not allowed him to harm me. ⁸ If he said, 'The speckled ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks gave birth to speckled young; and if he said, 'The streaked ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked young. ⁹ So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me.

¹⁰ "In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted. ¹¹ The angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob.' I answered, 'Here I am.' ¹² And he said, 'Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. ¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land.'" Genesis 31:1-13

1. Jacob's observations.

- Jacob heard his brothers-in-law.
 - Laban attempted to cheat Jacob, and when it didn't work his kids blamed Jacob because his wealth was increasing faster in proportion to Laban's wealth.
 - Laban's sons were filled with envy.
- Jacob sees Laban's countenance.

2. Jacob's desire is to return to his father's land.

Jacob needed some motivation to go home.

3. “I will be with you.”

God’s words help to propel Jacob to do what he needs to.

4. Jacob gets his wives blessing to leave.

Laban’s greed had cost him his daughters.

5. Many versions of the story.

The truth is, God blessed Jacob.

The Angel of the Lord tells Jacob the truth, making this a Christophany.

Do we give God credit enough for what He gives us?

6. I am the God of Bethel.

There is some unfinished business back in Bethel, and God is at work to make sure Jacob returns.

He is naming Himself the God of Bethel.

Come to me to have life

He let Jacob go on his pilgrimage, He even blessed him there but it was time to come back to the commitment.

We see God calling Jacob back to his first love.

Do you have some unfinished business?

God calls us back to Himself, where we dive in and make Him our God.