

J A C O B

Be patient - God hasn't finished with me yet

11. A Real Christian?

Genesis 33

1. Christianity is not about how nice a person is

- Esau – generous, forgiving, big-hearted,
- Jacob – still deceitful, still showing favouritism
- God's verdict – Esau is godless (Heb 12:16)

2. Christianity is about being right with God amidst the flaws

- Jacob is changing – brave & humble v3
- Jacob acknowledges God v5,11 – Esau doesn't
- Christianity isn't about being perfect, its about going to God for help

3. Christianity is belief lived out in real life

- Jacob is like every Christian – not what he should be, but not what he was
- 3 areas where Christianity must work itself out into your life

a) Put your wrongs to right

- Jacob seeks to put things right with Esau
- Humility v3 – Honesty v8 – Making restitution v11
- Who do you need to be reconciled with?
- Encouragement – God often smoothes the way - v4

b) Put God first above family and anything else

- A new danger – a distracting partnership. Esau – no interest in God
- Jacob – meant to be living for God, going to land of promise
- Jacob chickens out on explaining – falls back into old habits v13-16
- It was necessary to separate but not to lie
- Times we will need to put God first above those close to us, for our own good

c) Persevere in complete obedience

- Jacob settles in Succoth – not in Canaan. Then Shechem – not Bethel
- This brought disaster on Jacob and his family – Gen 34
- Not enough to settle for partial obedience
- Our journey isn't over until we are home – press on towards total obedience

4. Christianity is about looking to Jesus

- We can't do this – we need Jesus to change us first
- He is the one who humbles himself to bring about our reconciliation
- He is the one who put God's way above his own family to bring you into his true family
- He is the one who obeyed completely to bring us home
- Only if we see what he did for us can we do this
- When changed we then look to Jesus for security in reconciliation with others, for perspective on our priorities, and for strength to battle on in obedience



new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

Sabbath 16th November 08

Notices

Sab 16th Service in Day Centre 8pm

Tue Bible Study - Ten Commandments - The 7th Commandment 8pm
May & Seamus' home

Wed 26th-Sab 30th Wed-Sat @ 8pm
Outreach Services in Bready Sab @ 7pm
Theme "Our sufficient Saviour" - Speaker Rev. Philip Murphy

Sab 30th Mark will be preaching in Ballyclare
Service here will be taken by Nathan Hawthorne
If you you are able to provide lunch for Nathan please speak to Mark

Christianity Explored

A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sabbath 23rd - Living amongst the lost - Genesis 34

Opening Psalm: 89:7-12

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie

Oversight elders: Graham Fallows 048 7130 1641 William Lynch 048 7139 8002