

JACOB

Be patient - God hasn't finished with me yet

13. Reset your Spiritual Life

Genesis 35:1-15

- A chapter for all who need to reset their lives

1. You have a gracious invitation v1

- Massive failure of Jacob followed by, "Then God said, "Go up to Bethel""
- After the mess God doesn't write him off
- Jacob called to revisit his salvation, to return to God
- Do you need to go back to God? Do you need to go for the first time?
- Bethel was where God came down to meet Jacob. Calvary is where God comes down to meet us
- It is only because of Jesus that we can come back. It is only because of God coming down to sinners that we can go back to him.

2. You need a wholehearted commitment v2-8

a) Take responsibility v-2

- First time we see Jacob taking leadership in spiritual matters
- Doesn't shift blame to people or circumstances

b) Engage in repentance v2-4

- Jacob starts into a spiritual spring-clean
- Deal with your idols – things that shape your life more than God does
- Deal with your wrong ways – "Purify yourselves"
- Commit to a fresh start – symbolised by change of clothes
- No point going to God without inner change

c) Trust completely v5

- Jacob and family stepping out into hostile territory
- Have to rely on God to protect them – not on their own abilities
- Turning to God requires this sort of wholehearted commitment
- When we trust we find God becomes our protection – he goes before us
- It took the misery of Shechem to make Jacob trust in God not in himself

3. God will confirm his blessing and your belonging v9-15

a) God confirms Jacob's belonging/acceptance v10

- God restates Jacob's new name – a reminder of his new character
- He hasn't been called Israel yet; he hasn't been living like it either
- If a Christian lives in the old ways – they lose sense of belonging to God
- Need to return – when we do God confirms that we are his

b) God confirms his promises v11-13

- Jacob had made a mess & came back. Finds that God's promises haven't changed
- When we return God confirms his promises – forgiveness, destiny, security, support, status, purpose



new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

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

Sabbath 7th December 08

Notices

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--------|
| Sab 7 th | Evening service in Milford
The Sorrows of the Godly - Gen 35-45!! | 8pm |
| Tue | Bible Study on 8th Commandment @ Stewart & Jean's | 8pm |
| Sat 13 th | Fellowship Fun & Food night @ Mark & Judith's | 6.30pm |
| Sab 14 th | Lord's Supper at morning service - If you haven't joined with us to take part in the Lord's Supper and would like to take part please speak to Mark before next week. There will be no lunch after the service. | |
| Sab 28 th | Thanksgiving collection - One way of saying thank-you to God for all his kindness in the past year. We'll let you know what organisations we'll support with the money later. | |

Please speak to Caroline if you would like to receive either the Messenger or Covenanter Witness magazines

Denomination News

Rev Robert Robb has accepted the call to be the minister in Enniskillen.

A mission team is being planned for Nantes (France) from 4th-11 or 13th April. Anyone interested contact Rev Robert Robb 048 7772 2136 or revrobbrp@hotmail.com
Knowledge of French is not essential, but preference may be given to those who have some working knowledge of the language. Travel expenses will be paid by the Mission Committee.



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 14th - The Joys of Jacob - Genesis 46:1-7, 28-34; 47:1-12

Opening Psalm: 89:24-29

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

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