

1. Called to return v1-21

- 20 years away, very successful – now God speaks v3
 - a) **Commanded by God**
 - Jacob comes back, not out of fear, but obedience
 - b) **An intrusive command**
 - Breaks into his prosperity – in danger of getting too comfortable
 - Returning will mean upheaval and hard things to face
 - c) **Encouragement to return**
 - From unexpected quarters – Rachel and Leah agree
 - From negative circumstances – Laban and sons not happy
 - From God's promise – when God commands he also promises
 - From realising what God has done for him already – v4-9
 - d) **Responding in faith – v17**
 - Still many flaws v20, but hears call to return and obeys
 - Puts his faith in the promises
- God is calling all of us to return to him
- God calls us to leave the comfortable and familiar and trust in him
- Don't let circumstances hold you back – God is in control of everything
- You are not called to tidy yourself up first, but to come as you are

Application to Christians

- Are there areas where you need to return? "Leave at once"
- Are there areas where there will mean upheaval?
- Listen for God's encouragement
- You are to be constantly returning

2. Pursued by a former master v22-30

- He falsely accuses Jacob – v26
- He falsely promises affection – v27, 28
- He falsely threatens harm – v29
- Yet God had him on a leash – v24
- When you start to turn to God, or go forward in Christian life your old master rises up. Expect opposition to your progress in faith.
- Recognise that God has him on a leash – keep going

3. Strengthened by God to resist and return v31-56

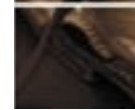
- Incident of idols shows inadequacy of other gods
- True God commands v3, guides, honours v9, protects v24, cares v42
- This inspires and transforms Jacob – to defy old master, to keep going
- Look to God for strength to keep going, and he will give it



Notices

Sab 26 th	Question & Discussion evening Come with your questions	8pm
Tue	Bible Study - 5th Commandment Venue: Colin & Carolines	8pm
Thurs 30 th	Donegal Night of Prayer 7.00-11.00pm The house behind the Open Door Bookshop. The night will be divided into ½ hour sections. Come when you can, leave when you need to	
Nov 15 th	Book and TearCraft evening in Milford	7-9pm

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 running one in your home for friends speak to Mark

Sermon continued:

Conclusion

- Jesus came to battle and defeat our old master, to set us free and take us home
- When we turn to and trust in him, we are to travel in his strength and under his protection, forsaking our old master and his ways
- We need to keep heading "Homeward Bound"

Sabbath 2nd - Gently Broken by God - Genesis 32

Opening Psalm: 88:1-6

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