



Lesson 18 – Jacob’s Flight and Exile

Based on Genesis 28 to 31

Our lesson begins today in place in history where Jacob by deceit has acquired the Blessing from Isaac. Esau is in a full-on rage threatening to kill Jacob and fully intending to do it. They need to have Jacob go into hiding, hopefully until Esau’s rage subsides.

- 1) What did Rebekah counsel Jacob?

Genesis 27:43-44 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, _____ thou to _____ my brother to Haran; And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;

- 2) What was another concern of Isaac and Rebekah?

Genesis 27:46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of _____, such as these which are of the daughters of the _____, what good shall my life do me?

Genesis 28:1-3 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a _____ of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of _____ thy mother's brother. And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;

- 3) What did Isaac do?

Genesis 28:5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to _____ unto Laban, son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of _____, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

With a deeply troubled heart that Jacob set out on his lonely journey. With only his staff in his hand he must travel hundreds of miles through a country inhabited by wild, roving tribes. In his remorse and timidity, he sought to avoid men, lest he should be traced by his angry brother. He feared that he had lost forever the blessing that God had purposed to give him; and Satan was at hand to press temptations upon him.

- 4) How did his journey begin?

Genesis 28:10-11 And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the _____ of that place, and put them for his _____, and lay down in that place to sleep.

The evening of the second day found him far away from his father’s tents. He felt that he was an outcast, and he knew that all this trouble had been brought upon him by his own wrong course. The darkness of despair pressed upon his soul, and he hardly dared to pray. But he was so utterly lonely that he felt the need of protection from God as he had never felt it before. With weeping and deep humiliation, he confessed his sin and entreated for some evidence that he was not utterly forsaken. Still his burdened heart found no relief.

- 5) What did God do for Jacob?

Genesis 28:12-13 And he dreamed, and behold a _____ set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God _____ and _____ on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;



Genesis 28:14-15 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be _____. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will _____ thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

The Lord knew the evil influences that would surround Jacob, and the perils to which he would be exposed. In mercy He opened up the future before the repentant fugitive, that he might understand the divine purpose with reference to himself, and be prepared to resist the temptations that would surely come to him when alone amid idolaters and scheming men. There would be ever before him the high standard at which he must aim; and the knowledge that through him the purpose of God was reaching its accomplishment, would constantly prompt him to faithfulness.

6) What did Jesus mention to Nathaniel?

John 1:51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the _____ of _____.

In the vision the plan of redemption was presented to Jacob, not fully, but in such parts as were essential to him at that time. The mystic ladder revealed to him in his dream was the same to which Christ referred in His conversation with Nathanael.

The sin of Adam and Eve separated earth from heaven, so that man could not have communion with his Maker. Yet the world was not left in solitary hopelessness. The ladder represents Jesus, the appointed medium of communication. Had He not with His own merits bridged the gulf that sin had made, the ministering angels could have held no communion with fallen man. Christ connects man in his weakness and helplessness with the source of infinite power.

7) How did Jacob respond?

Genesis 28:16-18 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this _____; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the _____ that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured _____ upon the top of it.

In accordance with the custom of commemorating important events, Jacob set up a memorial of God's mercy, that whenever he should pass that way, he might tarry at this sacred spot to worship the Lord. And he called the place Bethel, or the "house of God."

8) What promise did Jacob make?

Genesis 28:20-21 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will _____ in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my _____:

Genesis 28:22 And this stone, which I have set for a _____, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the _____ unto thee.

Jacob was not here seeking to make terms with God. The Lord had already promised him prosperity, and this vow was the outflow of a heart filled with gratitude for the assurance of God's love and mercy. Jacob felt that God had claims upon him which he must acknowledge, and that the special tokens of divine favor granted him demanded a return. So does every blessing bestowed upon us call for a response to the Author of all our mercies.

9) What should all be the attitude of All believers?

Psalms 116:12 What shall I _____ unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?



Our time, our talents, our property, should be sacredly devoted to Him who has given us these blessings in trust. Whenever a special deliverance is wrought in our behalf, or new and unexpected favors are granted us, we should acknowledge God's goodness, not only by expressing our gratitude in words, but, like Jacob, by gifts and offerings to His cause.

10) With pep in his step, where did Jacob go?

Genesis 29:1 Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the _____ of the east.

11) After a conversation with some shepherds, who did he meet?

Genesis 29:6-7 And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep. And he said, Lo, it is yet _____, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them.

12) What did Jacob do for Rachael?

Genesis 29:10 And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of _____ his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and _____ the _____ from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

It was here that he met Rachel, Laban's younger daughter. It was Jacob now who rendered service, rolling the stone from the well and watering the flocks. On making known his kinship, he was welcomed to the home of Laban. Though he came portionless and unattended, a few weeks showed the worth of his diligence and skill, and he was urged to tarry.

13) What agreement did Laban make with Jacob?

Genesis 29:18-19 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee _____ for Rachel thy younger daughter. And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.

In early times custom required the bridegroom, before the ratification of a marriage engagement, to pay a sum of money or its equivalent in other property, according to his circumstances, to the father of his wife. This was regarded as a safeguard to the marriage relation. Fathers did not think it safe to trust the happiness of their daughters to men who had not made provision for the support of a family.

Provision was made to test those who had nothing to pay for a wife. They were permitted to labor for the father whose daughter they loved, the length of time being regulated by the value of the dowry required. When the suitor was faithful in his services, and proved in other respects worthy, he obtained the daughter as his wife; and generally, the dowry which the father had received was given her at her marriage.

14) At the end of seven years service, what did Jacob claim?

Genesis 29:20-21 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few _____, for the love he had to her. And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my _____, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.

15) What did Laban do?

Genesis 29:23 And it came to pass in the evening, that he took _____ his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her.

The selfish and grasping Laban, desiring to retain so valuable a helper, practiced a cruel deception in substituting Leah for Rachel. The fact that Leah herself was a party to the cheat, caused Jacob to feel that he could not love her. His indignant rebuke to Laban was met with the offer of Rachel for another seven years' service. But the father insisted that Leah should not be discarded, since this would bring disgrace upon the family. Jacob was thus placed in a most painful and trying position; he finally decided



to retain Leah and marry Rachel. Rachel was ever the one best loved; but his preference for her excited envy and jealousy, and his life was embittered by the rivalry between the sister-wives.

16) Did Jacob get to marry Rachael?

Genesis 29:30 And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and _____ with him yet seven other years.

17) Was Laban faithful?

Genesis 31:41 Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast _____ my wages ten times.

18) Throughout his time in Haran, was Jacob faithful?

Genesis 31:38-40 This twenty years have I been with thee; thy ewes and thy she goats have not cast their young, and the rams of thy flock have I not _____. That which was torn of beasts I brought not unto thee; I bare the _____ of it; of my hand didst thou require it, whether stolen by day, or stolen by night. Thus I was; in the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night; and my sleep _____ from mine eyes.

It was necessary for the shepherd to watch his flocks day and night. They were in danger from robbers, and also from wild beasts, which were numerous and bold, often committing great havoc in flocks that were not faithfully guarded. Jacob had many assistants in caring for the extensive flocks of Laban, but he himself was held responsible for them all.

19) What kind of care does Jesus give us?

John 10:11 I am the good _____: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15 I am the good _____, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Christ, the Chief Shepherd, has entrusted the care of His flock to His ministers as undershepherds; and He bids them have the same interest that He has manifested, and feel the sacred responsibility of the charge He has entrusted to them. He has solemnly commanded them to be faithful, to feed the flock, to strengthen the weak, to revive the fainting, and to shield them from devouring wolves.

20) What did Peter admonish us?

1 Peter 5:2-3 Feed the _____ of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but _____; not for filthy lucre, but of a _____; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

21) What is in the book of Acts for us?

Acts 20:28-29 Take _____ therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the _____ of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

22) What did God ask of the nation of Israel?

Jeremiah 13:20 Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where is the flock that was _____ thee, thy beautiful flock?

23) What will God do when He returns again?

1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a _____ of glory that fadeth not away.

The church of Christ has been purchased with His blood, and every shepherd should realize that the sheep under his care cost an infinite sacrifice. He should regard them each as of priceless worth and should be unwearied in his efforts to keep them in a healthy, flourishing condition. The shepherd who is imbued with the spirit of Christ will imitate His self-denying example, constantly laboring for the welfare of his charge; and the flock will prosper under his care.



24) Jacob was ready to go, what did he ask Laban?

Genesis 30:30 For it was little which thou hadst before I came, and it is now increased unto a multitude; and the LORD hath blessed thee since my coming; and now when shall I _____ for mine own house also?

25) What were things like before Jacob left for home (Caanan)?

Genesis 31:1-2 And he heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, Jacob hath _____ all that was our father's; and of that which was our father's hath he gotten all this glory. And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as _____.

As time passed on, Laban became envious of the greater prosperity of Jacob.

26) What did God tell Jacob at this point?

Genesis 31:3 And the LORD said unto Jacob, _____ unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.

Jacob would have left his crafty kinsman long before but for the fear of encountering Esau. Now he felt that he was in danger from the sons of Laban, who, looking upon his wealth as their own, might endeavor to secure it by violence. He was in great perplexity and distress, not knowing which way to turn. But mindful of the gracious Bethel promise, he carried his case to God and sought direction from Him. In a dream his prayer was answered.

Laban's absence afforded opportunity for departure. The flocks and herds were speedily gathered and sent forward, and with his wives, children, and servants, Jacob crossed the Euphrates, urging his way toward Gilead, on the borders of Canaan. After three days Laban learned of their flight, and set forth in pursuit, overtaking the company on the seventh day of their journey.

27) What did God do for Jacob?

Genesis 31:25 And God came to Laban the Syrian in a _____ by night, and said unto him, Take heed that thou _____ not to Jacob either good or bad.

28) What was Laban's excuse when he met up with the fleeing band?

Genesis 31:27-28 Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with _____, and with _____, with tabret, and with harp? And hast not suffered me to kiss my sons and my daughters? thou hast now done _____ in so doing.

29) What great news filled Jacob's ears?

Genesis 31:29 It is in the power of my hand to do you _____: but the God of your father _____ unto me yesternight, saying, Take thou heed that thou speak not to Jacob either good or bad.

Laban could not deny the facts brought forward, and he now proposed to enter into a covenant of peace. Jacob consented to the proposal, and a pile of stones was erected as a token of the compact. To this pillar Laban gave the name Mizpah, "watchtower," saying, "***The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.***"

The night was spent in friendly communing; and at the dawn of day, Laban and his company departed. With this separation ceased all traces of connection between the children of Abraham and the dwellers in Mesopotamia.

Can you see Jacob was faithful to God, even under terrible circumstances?

Would you like to be set totally free?

When is the time to just trust God in His Word?