

Jacob Finds A God Who Will Not Leave Him

Genesis 28:10-15

1. Restoration from Abandonment and Rejection

- A. One of the factors that affects our concept of self is the issue of abandonment and or rejection. Remember, it is not the environment itself that forms our self image, but rather our perspective on the environment and how we respond to that perception.
- B. We spoke very briefly about nurturing, which is a healthy environment and abandonment which is an unhealthy environment.
- C. Abandonment is perceptual:
 - I did not realize I had a sense of abandonment during my formative years but I did. I had not been literally abandoned, neither had I been abused, but there was something in my predisposition, or personality type, that drove me toward a feeling of abandonment.
 - Then there was the lesbian I talked to who said she had a normal life and relationship with her mother and knew that her home life had nothing to do with who she was now. It was just a coincidence that her first sexual encounter was when she was molested by her mother's female lover.
- D. I have come to believe that much of our self-image and self-concept are formed by our perception of whether we were rejected and abandoned or whether we were nurtured during our formative years.
- E. Every human being desires to be loved and accepted just because they are there; not because of who or what they are. "I am here, I didn't ask to be here, but being that I am here, does anyone love me?"

2. The Story of Jacob and Esau:

- A. **Their Birth**—Jacob holding on
- B. **Esau the Hunter – Jacob the house keeper** (Genesis 25:27)
- C. **The Birthright**—All of the household blessing would go to the Eldest and the younger will be the same as a servant to the older
- D. **The Deception**—Jacob was not going to allow this rejection to take place without at least making an effort to "get his share". (Genesis 25:29-34)
- E. **The Chase**—Esau vows to kill Jacob after his father dies, Jacob leaves (27:41)

3. **Jacob—the manipulator who felt abandoned**

- A. Because of his abandonment rejection issues, he felt he had to “take control”
- B. It seemed that everything he tried in order to find acceptance backfired and caused him greater rejection.
 - The birthright deal with Esau caused his brother to hate him
 - The deception of his father caused him to have to leave

Then on the way to Padan Aram he found God!

4. **The God That Jacob Found**

A. **Then Jacob found the God who loves without condition:**

Genesis 28:10-15... “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

- God revealed to Jacob that he had a plan
- God revealed to Jacob that his plan was not dependent upon what Jacob thought about himself
- God revealed to Jacob that he was with him for the long haul

B. **He discovered that God had a wonderful plan for his life.**

Verses 10-14—God reveals his plan to both bless Jacob and to bless all peoples through Jacob

5. **The Rest of Jacobs Life**

- A. Jacob finds a wife and begins to build a life
- B. Jacob finds rejection again from his father-in-law
 - Laban gives him the wrong daughter
 - Laban changes wages 10 times
- C. Jacob continues to use his survival skills to control his environment
 - He used trickery to improve his position every time his wages were changed... No one was going to take advantage of him!
- D. Finally, he faces his greatest trial and turns fully to the God who promised to go with him all the way.
 - Now, Esau is coming with hundreds of trained soldiers
 - Jacob turns to the only hope he has... the only hope he truly had all along: God

6. The God Who Will Not Forsake Us

- A. Over 400 years later God was still fulfilling the promise to Jacobs people when he brought them out of Egypt and promised:

Deuteronomy 31:3-- The LORD your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the LORD said. 4)And the LORD will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land. 5)The LORD will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. 6)Be strong and courageous. **Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."**

- B. **Jesus Promises to go all the way with us:**

Matthew 28:20—"And surely I will be with you always, even to the end of the age."

- C. **Paul summarizes God's commitment to us**

Romans 8:37—No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38)For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39)neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- D. **Finally:**

Hebrews 13:5-6 —Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

God loves you based upon who he is.

- You do not have to be somebody, or do something to be loved and accepted by him.
- God loves you just because you are a person.
- He wants to fill the part of you that has always wanted someone just to walk into and never leave.