

Prayer Changes Everything

Genesis 28

10 Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. **11** When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. **12** He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** There above it stood the Lord, and he said: “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. **14** Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. **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.”

16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” **17** He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”

18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. **19** He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear **21** so that I return safely to my father’s household,

then the Lord will be my God **22** and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Jacob was young...

His Father had just blessed him...

His Mother and Father sent him on this journey to his Uncle Laban's...

He was headed to a foreign place and he was alone...

He was on this journey and he was afraid...

It was in the midst of this place of feeling and alone and afraid the God of "Do not be afraid for I am with you" appeared...

Prayer is for the Journey

Vs. 11-13

11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.

Imagine with me what it was like for Jacob:

- The sun had set...
- He took a stone and put it under his head to lay down to sleep on...
- Scripture doesn't speak of Jacob having anyone else with him...
- But God met Jacob there...
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- God meets us on the Journey...
- God meets us when we are alone and afraid...
- You're never more open to God than when you're in a place like this...
- God meets us in special ways at special moments...

It says: "When he reached a certain place"

Prayer is like that:

- It's a certain place...
- That doesn't just pertain to geographic place but a place in your life...
- Jacob was in the right place...
- The right place to hear from God...
- The right place for a Revelation from God...
- It's a place in the journey...
- The physical place becomes significant because meeting with God is significant, it is the most significant thing you will ever do...

It was perfect timing for Jacob because the place in the natural was exactly like what he was feeling on the inside...

In that certain place something unexpected happened...

Jacob had a dream:

Vs. 12,13

12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** There above it stood the Lord "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.

We all have dreams, but this was more than just a dream...

This dream for Jacob was an Encounter...

It was one that changed him forever...

Prayer works the same way...

Prayer is opportunity for Encounter

An encounter like this sticks with you

It will change you forever...

An encounter brings God close to your heart and mind...

An encounter builds faith because it's an experience with God...

In this moment Jacob wasn't asking, he was receiving...

He wasn't praying that his circumstances would change, he was being changed...

Vs 18-21

18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. **19** He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear **21** so that I return safely to my father's household, then the Lord will be my God.

One Meeting with God in Prayer can change Everything

I understand diligence in prayer

I understand discipline of prayer

But can I tell you everything can change in one meeting with God...

It doesn't take much, just one meeting with God can change everything...

What if he speaks to you

What if he shows you something

What if he gives you a vision

What if he gives you direction

God can birth something inside of you, in a moment, that will never let you go...

God can point you in a direction that is so much bigger than anything you ever dreamed...

It all can happen in one meeting with God in Prayer...

Story: Me being where I am today was set in motion from one small prayer meeting on a Thursday evening at Beebe First Assembly.

Genesis 35

Then God said to Jacob, “Go up to Bethel and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau.”

2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. **3** Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.”

Jacob’s life was forever changed because of one unsuspecting moment with God...

How many others in the Bible, How about:

Hannah - 1 Samuel 1

Jonah - Jonah 2

1 From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. **2** He said: “In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.

10 And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

One Moment with God can change everything...

Never underestimate a prayer meeting...

Never underestimate meeting with God...