

Committed: Shackled To God In Every Season

CENTRAL QUESTION:

What does it really mean to be committed to God—not just interested, but shackled to Him through every season?

I. THE MEANING OF COMMITTED (00:00:00 - 00:01:30)

Key Scripture: Genesis 35:18-21

The Story:

- Rachel dying in childbirth, naming her son Ben-Oni ("son of sorrow")
- Jacob renaming him Benjamin ("son of my right hand")
- From sorrow to destiny through commitment

The Definition:

- Committed doesn't just mean "dedicated"
 - **Hebrew/Original Meaning:** Shackled to, bound to, hooked in, connected
 - No longer an option to turn away
 - **Reality Check:** We're committed to everything BUT God—careers, likes, follows, comfort, convenience, temporary pleasures
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II. THE LOVE STORY: JACOB AND RACHEL (00:01:30 - 00:08:00)

Scripture Foundation: Genesis 28-29

The Beginning (Genesis 29:11):

- Jacob sees Rachel—love at first sight

- He rolls away the stone (showing off his strength)
- He kisses her and weeps— that's real commitment
- **The Cost:** Works 7 years for her hand in marriage

The Deception:

- Wakes up married to Leah instead of Rachel
- Leah was not as attractive, not the chosen one
- Jacob confronts Laban, agrees to work 7 MORE years for Rachel

Key Insight: 14 years of work = true commitment

- Not just interested
- Not just attracted
- **Fully committed**

III. RACHEL'S BARREN SEASON (00:08:00 - 00:20:00)

Key Scripture: Genesis 30:1 - "Give me children, or I will die"

A. THE PAIN OF THE WAIT

Rachel's Reality:

- Empty womb = cultural curse and shame
- Everyone was talking about her at the well
- Leah (the unloved one) kept having children
- Rachel was the loved one, but not the blessed one

The Comparison Trap:

- Watching others get what you're praying for
- Feeling abandoned by God while "heathens" prosper
- The pity party: "Woe is me"

B. WHAT GOD WAS REALLY DOING (00:20:00 - 00:28:00)

THE GOOD NEWS:

- **God was not punishing Rachel**
- **God was PREPARING Rachel**
- God wasn't ignoring her—He was orchestrating something great

Key Truth: When God seems silent, it doesn't mean He is absent.

The Wait Had Purpose:

- Leah had many sons
 - Rachel had Joseph—the DELIVERER
 - Quality over quantity
 - Joseph would save the entire nation from famine
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IV. THE COST OF COMMITMENT IN TODAY'S WORLD (00:28:00 - 00:34:00)

The Reality Check:

What People Are Committed To:

- Standing in line for hours for concerts
- Camping out for ball game tickets
- Chasing money, fame, popularity
- The woke movement (they ARE committed)

What People WON'T Commit To:

- Kneeling in prayer for 5 minutes
- Showing up to church consistently
- Reading the Word daily
- Walking in holiness

The Challenge:

- Prayer removed from schools

- Government corruption
 - Cultural compromise
 - **Why?** Because the world is committed to its idols—what about the church?
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V. WHAT COMMITTED REALLY LOOKS LIKE

(00:34:00 - 00:40:00)

A. COMMITTED TO WHAT GOD IS DOING, NOT WHAT HE CAN DO FOR YOU

The Shift:

- "I'm not here for what Jesus can do for me"
- "I'm here because I'm committed to WHO HE IS"
- Hooked on something bigger than yourself

B. YOU CAN'T BE "A LITTLE COMMITTED"

Grandmother Gladys's Wisdom:

- Cousin: "I think I'm a little pregnant"
- Granny: "Honey, you either are or you ain't—there is no in between"
- **Same with commitment—you're either all in or you're not**

C. NOTHING IS BORN WITHOUT TRAVAIL

The Labor Principle:

- That's why it's called "labor" pains
 - If it was easy, men would do it
 - Spiritual birth requires spiritual labor
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VI. FROM SORROW TO DESTINY: THE BENJAMIN PRINCIPLE (00:40:00 - 00:42:00)

The Final Birth:

- Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin

- She names him Ben-Oni (son of sorrow)
- Jacob renames him Benjamin (son of my right hand)

Joseph's Story:

- Despised by brothers
- Cast into a pit
- Falsely accused
- Imprisoned
- **But:** He carried the answer to a nation in famine
- Rose to second-in-command of Egypt
- Saved his family and his people

Joseph = Shadow of the Church:

- Hated and misunderstood
 - But destined to save the nation
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VII. THE BROWNSVILLE REVIVAL EXAMPLE (00:42:00 - 00:44:00)

The Testimony:

- Pastor ready to quit due to division
- Canceled Sunday night services for prayer
- Committed to pray even if only him and his wife showed up
- Prayed for over a year with small attendance
- One Sunday morning, invited evangelist friend to preach
- **The Holy Ghost fell**
- Revival broke out and lasted for years
- Millions came through the door

The Lesson: Commitment in the waiting brings breakthrough

VIII. THE CALL TO COMMITMENT (00:44:00 - END)

SHACKLE YOURSELF TO:

1. **Prayer Life** - before you even roll out of bed
2. **The Word** - daily, not occasionally
3. **The House of God** - when it's up and when it's down
4. **Your Family** - raising them in the fear and admonition of the Lord
5. **Holiness** - not casual Christianity

THE DECLARATION:

"I'm going to be here when revival is stirring, and I'm going to be here when we pray, no matter what happens."

THE CHALLENGE:

- Before we walk into the new building, let's be committed
- Not to show off the building
- But to show off the **GOD OF THE BUILDING**
- The **KING OF THE BUILDING**

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Committed = Shackled

You roll out of bed shackled to prayer, shackled to the Word, shackled to the house of God. It's not about being perfect—it's about being present, faithful, and devoted through every season.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

- Are you truly committed to God, or just interested?
- What are you shackled to right now—God or something else?
- Are you in a "barren season"? Remember: God is preparing, not punishing

- What does your commitment to prayer, church, and family actually look like?
 - Will you commit to being there when it's hard, not just when it's easy?
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Scripture References for Further Study:

Genesis 29–35 | Genesis 30:1 | Genesis 41:38 (Joseph) | Psalm 127:3 | Psalm 139:7-10