

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Have you ever found yourself at rock bottom, looking around at a mess and asking, "How did I end up here?" Sometimes the tough situations we face aren't our fault, and sometimes they stem from the hurtful actions of others. But often, if we're honest, our messes come from our own bad decisions—from chasing after good things in the wrong ways, or doubling down on our mistakes instead of repenting.

That is exactly where Jacob finds himself in Genesis 28. He wanted God's blessing, but he lied, manipulated, and schemed to get it. He won the blessing, but it cost him his home, his family, and his safety. Running for his life, alone in the wilderness with only a stone for a pillow, Jacob reaches a total low point.

Yet right there, in the middle of Jacob's mess, God meets him with grace. In a dream, heaven opens up, and God reaches down to make promise after promise: "I am with you and will keep you wherever you go". Jacob didn't pray, worship, or earn this encounter; he was simply fast asleep after messing up. God took the initiative out of pure grace.

This points us directly to Jesus, who ultimately connects heaven and earth. We cannot climb our way to God through good works or religious striving. Instead, Jesus stepped down into our broken, sinful world to bring us to God through His life, death, and resurrection.

No matter what trial or low point you are facing today, God meets you in your mess with mercy. As Hebrews 4 reminds us, we have a High Priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses. Let us draw near to the throne of grace with confidence, knowing He will never leave us nor forsake us.

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

Thinking back on times you've found yourself in a "mess," was it mostly caused by unexpected circumstances, the actions of others, or your own choices?

QUESTION TWO:

Like Jacob trying to secure a good blessing through manipulation, have you ever found yourself striving to achieve a good or noble goal using the wrong methods?

QUESTION THREE:

When Jacob woke up, he bargained with God—saying, "If God will be with me... then the Lord shall be my God". In what areas of your life are you currently tempted to place "if/then" conditions on your trust in God?

QUESTION FOUR:

God met Jacob when he was at his lowest point, fast asleep and completely undeserving. What makes it difficult for you to draw near to God's throne of grace when you feel you've messed up, rather than waiting until you "have it all together"?