

Jacob's Wake-Up Call!

Sunday, May 31/20 --- Genesis 28

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.' And he was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'... He called the name of that place Bethel. – Genesis 28:16

Awake, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Watch carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. – Ephesians 5: 14

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. – Corrie Ten Boom

God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called. – Rick Yancey

Introduction:

Did Jacob stumble upon the house of God? Do any of us stumble upon God? If you understand the Bible and the working of the Holy Spirit, you will know that long before you were ever seeking God --- God was seeking you. He did something to awaken you to Himself, just as much as He did for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Then, once you are spiritually awake, God begins the work of getting you ready to serve His purposes. Preparing the message and the means are much smaller tasks for God than preparing the messenger.

Sermon Outline:

1. The Little Jacob in All of Us

2. Stumbling upon the House of God

3. Climbing Jacob's Ladder

Our Response:

- A dream or a real place?
- An experience or an encounter?
- A bargain or a covenant?

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- How do you identify with Jacob? What does the little Jacob in you look like?
- Can you see that the place that God has you at this time could be a Bethel?
- Do you ever bargain with God? How is a covenant different than making a bargain?
- Is it comforting to know God is not finished with you yet? What does He have yet to do?