

Leave - Follow

Intro:

Heaven trembles at the notion of Christ being anywhere but at the center of our affections. Following Christ means leaving idolatry no matter what form it takes

Problem:

- Mark 1:16-20

God doesn't ask us to leave our nets or our families

- 1 Thess 1:4-10

He asks us to leave our idols

- Colossians 3:5-6

let go of what Idols?

letting go of the people and things that give us security, sufficiency, and significance (rowing, rebecca). Jacob learns this as he begins to really follow God in Genesis 35. Through the lens of four burials Jacob learns that God is his true security, his true sufficiency and his true significance

Main Idea:

Bury your Idols

He is your true security

He is your true sufficiency

He is your true significance

Implication:

- Luke 23:44-46 (As Jesus finishes His work on the cross He quoted psalm 31 reminding us of His hatred of idols)

- Ps 31:1-6 (He hates idols)

Application:

Luke 9:23-27 (He is your true security) - give Him your worry

Luke 9:57-62 (He is your true sufficiency) - give Him your passion

Luke 14:25-33 (He is your true significance) - give Him your family

Articles for further study:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-idolatry>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/idolatry-definition.html>

<https://relevantmagazine.com/life/how-focusing-my-family-turned-it-idol>

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Text:

Bury your idols

Gen. 35:1 ¶ God said to Jacob, "Arise, **go up to Bethel** and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau."

Gen. 35:2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "**Put away the foreign gods** that are among you and **purify yourselves and change your garments**."

Gen. 35:3 Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone."

Gen. 35:4 **So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid (taman) (buried) them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.**

Isaiah 44:9-20 (they are worthless)

Isaiah 2:12-19 (God hates them)

Matt 6:19-24 (they are false affections)

Exodus 20:3-5 (Jesus will not share place with an idol - no matter what it is)

1 Sam 5:1-5- God and Dagon must be rejected in whatever form he takes

He is your true security

Gen. 35:5 ¶ And as they journeyed, **a terror from God fell upon the cities that were around them, so that they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.**

Gen. 35:6 And Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him, Gen. 35:7 and there he built an altar and called the place **El-bethel (God not the place)**, because there God had revealed himself to him when he fled from his brother.

Gen. 35:8 And **Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel.** So he called its name Allon-bacuth.

Gen 34:30 (God is Jacob's security)

Gen 24:59 (like a comforting grandmother unlike Rebekah - no burial recorded)

Matt 6:24-33 (God is your true comfort)

anything or anyone that becomes a requirement for your feeling of safety and security is an idol - God alone makes you safe

He is your true sufficiency

Gen. 35:9 ¶ God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him.

Gen. 35:10 And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but **Israel** shall be your name." So he called his name Israel.

Gen. 35:11 And God said to him, "**I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body.**

Gen. 35:12 **The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you."**

Gen. 35:13 Then God went up from him in the place where he had spoken with him.

Gen. 35:14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it.

Gen. 35:15 **So Jacob called the name of the place where God had spoken with him Bethel.**

Gen. 35:16 ¶ Then they journeyed from Bethel. When they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor.

Gen. 35:17 And when her labor was at its hardest, the midwife said to her, "Do not fear, for you have another son."

Gen. 35:18 And as her soul was departing (for she was dying), she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him **Benjamin**.

Gen. 35:19 So **Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)**,

Gen. 35:20 and Jacob **set up a pillar** over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day.

Gen. 35:21 **Israel journeyed on** and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

Gen 30:22-24 (a memorial to Rachel his treasure)

Gen 15:1-6 (not about them but God his sufficiency)

Matt 13:44-46 (He is your true treasure)

anything or anyone that becomes a requirement for your feeling of satisfaction is an idol - God alone makes you rich

He is your true significance

Gen. 35:22 ¶ While Israel lived in that land, **Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine. And Israel heard of it.** ¶ Now the sons of Jacob were twelve.

Gen. 35:23 The sons of Leah: Reuben (Jacob's firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

Gen. 35:24 The sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

Gen. 35:25 The sons of Bilhah, Rachel's servant: Dan and Naphtali.

Gen. 35:26 The sons of Zilpah, Leah's servant: Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Paddan-aram.

Gen. 35:27 ¶ And Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had sojourned.

Gen. 35:28 Now the days of Isaac were 180 years.

Gen. 35:29 **And Isaac breathed his last, and he died and was gathered to his people, old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.**

Matt 19:16-23 (He is your true greatness)

anything or anyone that become a requirement for your feeling of significance is an idol - God alone make you great