



Midweek Study

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In the Footsteps of

FAITH

Genesis 12-36



Failure Is Not Final

(Genesis 28:1-22)

1. The **Danger** (Genesis 27:41-46)

Though Jacob has the blessing and birthright, the family is now divided and full of strife. Esau says he will kill his brother when the time is right. Rebekah has another plan.

Application: the consequences of our choices are often difficult to bear. *"The way of the transgressor is hard."* (Proverbs. 13:15, KJV)

Esau marries to please his parents and gain the blessing back.

2. The **Departure** (Genesis 28:1-10)

v. 10 - From Beer-sheba to Haran is a journey of about 500 miles.

Spurgeon applied this word to anyone who might be setting out on a journey: "Is any young friend here who is leaving home? Are you going away for the first time, and do you feel sad? Or are you about to emigrate to a distant country, and does your heart feel heavy? Do not go at all till you can get a hold of this. 'I am with thee.' Say unto the Lord, 'If thy Spirit go not with me, carry me not up hence.' Wait till he gives the answer, 'My Spirit shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.'"¹

Application: Generally, children should seek the counsel of their parents when getting married. (See **v.1**)



¹ CH Spurgeon, "Four Choice Sentences," *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit* (London: Banner of Truth, 1971), 27:647, as quoted by James Montgomery Boice, *Genesis: An Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 768.

Application: Believers should only marry believers. This principle is seen many times in Scripture. Most notably in [2 Corinthians 6:14](#). Isaac probably saw the difficulties with marrying godless women in the life of Esau (See [Genesis 26:34](#)).

3. The **Dream** ([Genesis 28:11-19](#))

He sees a “ladder” (literally, a “staircase”). He also sees angels ascending and descending. See [Hebrews 1:14](#).

Application: You need to know God for yourself. Jacob had heard about YHWH from his father Isaac and his grandfather Abraham, but here is the first encounter with God for himself. See [Philippians 3:8](#) and [Jeremiah 9:23-24a](#).

Application: You are not alone. God is always with us ([v.15](#)). See [Hebrews 13:5](#).

James Montgomery Boice writes, “As we look at Jacob’s experience, I want you to see that God is also with you. You may be on the verge of a mental collapse; but although you cannot sense it, God is with you right now. You may be quite ill. You may be misunderstood by your friends. You may be abandoned by a husband, a wife, or your children. Even the church may have turned its back on you. You may have lost a job. You may be discouraged. You may have so little self-worth that you feel that no one will ever care for you again.”²

4. The **Devotion** ([Genesis 28:20-22](#))

Bethel ([v.19](#)), which means “the house of God,” is above Hebron and below Shechem on the map. Jerry Vines says, “In Bible days when they poured liquid out, it was a symbol of total consecration. They would pour it out symbolizing they had totally given themselves to the Lord.”

NOTE: Some commentators see “If” as “**Since** God will be with me...” as a response to God saying “I will be with you.” Even if the word is “if” it should not necessarily be condemned. Remember when the disciples ask who it is, and Jesus answers “**it is I.**” Peter’s response is “**If it is You...**” ([Matthew 14:28](#)). This was still a statement of faith. One writer said, “Jacob seems to be saying that since the Lord can do these things, and has said He will do these things, Jacob is willing to trust and obey.”

Application: Be a giver, not a taker. Up until this point, Jacob has been a taker. However, in his consecration to the Lord, he vows that he will give ten percent of everything to God. Remember the story of Zacchaeus, after his encounter with Jesus.

² Boice, 766.