

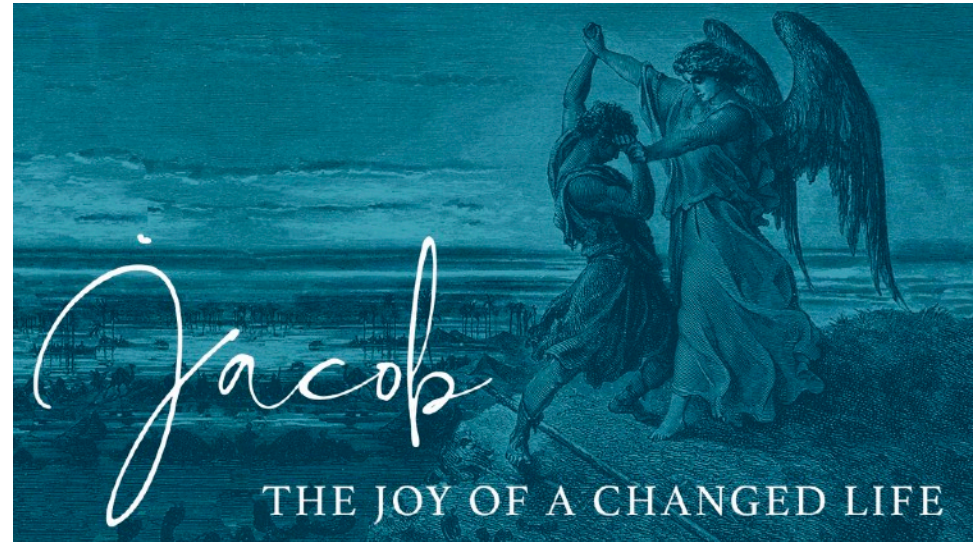
## WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////

This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!) We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends or your group.



### For Discussion:

1. If you haven't done so already, read all of chapter 31. What jumps out at you?
2. How are you relating to Jacob's life? What similarities are there with your life?
3. What was the key lesson for you from this study?



October 19 & 20, 2019 | Jacob #4 | Dennis Miller, pastor

### LESSONS

1. People who feel inadequate or UNFIT for the Kingdom of God can become the BEST candidates for spiritual greatness.
2. True life CHANGE normally happens when a person faces a crisis, processes it properly, and SURRENDERS to God. People CAN change and that will bring JOY!

### JACOB - BECOMING A MAN OF INTEGRITY

Gen. 30:25 After Rachel gave birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Send me on my way so I can go back to my own homeland. 26 Give me my wives and children, for whom I have served you, and I will be on my way. You know how much work I’ve done for you.” 27 But Laban said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes, please stay. I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you.” 28 He added, “Name your wages, and I will pay them.” 29 Jacob said to him, “You know how I have worked for you and how your livestock has fared under my care. 30 The little you had before I came has increased greatly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I have been. But now, when may I do something for my own household?” 31 “What shall I give you?” he asked. “Don’t give me anything,” Jacob replied. “But if you will do this one thing for me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them: 32 Let me go through all your flocks today and remove from them every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb and every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages. 33 And my honesty will testify for me in the future, whenever you check on the wages you have paid me. Any goat in my possession that is not speckled or spotted, or any lamb that is not dark-colored, will be considered stolen.” 34 “Agreed,” said Laban. “Let it be as you have said.”

1. Jacob had LIVED in Haran for 20 years and fathered 11 sons and one daughter. Now he wanted to RETURN home to Israel and to his immediate family.

2. Jacob's father-in-law, LABAN (לבן), wanted him to STAY. By divination Laban learned that God was only BLESSING him and making him wealthy BECAUSE of Jacob.

3. Jacob believed that it was now time to take care of his OWN growing family and asked Laban for the speckled and spotted lambs. Laban agreed, but DECEIVED Jacob.

4. Jacob had become a NEW man. His word was now his CONTRACT and he invited oversight. People CAN change!

### **LABAN — A PICTURE OF A CHEATER**

*Gen. 31:3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you." 4 So Jacob sent word to Rachel and Leah to come out to the fields where his flocks were. 5 He said to them, "I see that your father's attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me. 6 You know that I've worked for your father with all my strength, 7 yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times. However, God has not allowed him to harm me. 8 If he said, 'The speckled ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks gave birth to speckled young; and if he said, 'The streaked ones will be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked young. 9 So God has taken away your father's livestock and has given them to me.*

1. Again, God promised His PRESENCE as He instructed Jacob to RETURN to Israel.

2. Jacob sensed a negative CHANGE in Laban's attitude, but he also sensed the LORD'S protection.

3. Laban cheated Jacob by continually changing his WAGES, yet he could not physically HURT Jacob because of the Lord.

4. Laban further tried to CHEAT Jacob by changing the payment of LAMBS, but God always made the flock produce young that FAVORED Jacob.

### **JACOB — THE RETURN TO ISRAEL**

*Gen. 31:19 When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household gods. 20 Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away. 21 So he fled with all he had, crossed the Euphrates River, and headed for the hill country of Gilead.*

1. In his last SIX YEARS of working for Laban, Jacob also became very WEALTHY.

2. While Laban was AWAY on a trip, Jacob took his family and flocks and "stole away" (גָּנַב, ganav) to RETURN to Israel.

*Gen. 31:20 And Jacob stole away unawares to Laban the Syrian, in that he told him not that he fled. (KJV)*

3. Rachel, Jacob's wife, STOLE her father's idols without her husband's knowledge. Now she is the DECEIVER.

*Gen 31:32 But if you find anyone who has your gods, that person shall not live. In the presence of our relatives, see for yourself whether there is anything of yours here with me; and if so, take it." Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods.*

*Gen. 35:19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath. . .*

### **MIZPAH — THE WITNESS**

*Gen. 31:22 On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled. 23 Taking his relatives with him, he pursued Jacob for seven days and caught up with him in the hill country of Gilead. 24 Then God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night and said to him, "Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad." . . . Gen. 31:43 Laban answered Jacob, "The women are my daughters, the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks. All you see is mine. Yet what can I do today about these daughters of mine, or about the children they have borne? 44 Come now, let's make a covenant, you and I, and let it serve as a witness between us." 45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. 46 He said to his relatives, "Gather some stones." So they took stones and piled them in a heap, and they ate there by the heap. 47 Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, and Jacob called it Galeed. 48 Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me today." That is why it was called Galeed. 49 It was also called Mizpah, because he said, "May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other."*

1. Laban went after Jacob and his family with the intent to HARM. God protected Jacob through a DREAM.

2. Laban wrongly CLAIMED Jacob's family and flocks as his own, but God had GIVEN all of this to Jacob.

3. Because of his fear of Jacob and God, Laban suggested a COVENANT (peace treaty) and it was marked by a pillar and a heap of STONES. Jacob set up FOUR pillars during his life to mark moments of great CHANGE.

4. The Mizpah stone was a reminder to BOTH men that they would never cross the boundary with the intent to HARM.

*Gen 31:52 This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not go past this heap to your side to harm you and that you will not go past this heap and pillar to my side to harm me.*

### **SOME APPLICATION THOUGHTS:**

1. God's promises of blessing and protection are SURE.

2. Jacob is an EXAMPLE that people can change greatly. Give yourself and others the BENEFIT of the doubt.

3. Jacob set up reminders of his moments of CHANGE. How do you mark and REMEMBER your crisis moments?