

- III. Conclusion: We learn with Isaac that God's guidance will be right and that we do not need to worry a lot about where the next well will be drilled if we are now using the one God has opened. In other words, doing His will today is the surest way of knowing what His will may be tomorrow. Following Jesus is not an off and on sort of thing, it is a life style learned by the patriarchs and still available for us.

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MESSAGE # 5: JACOB

Biblical passages: Genesis 28

I. Introduction to the Study:

The life of Jacob is an interesting study in human nature and divine exposure. We often know these people more by their faults and that is unfortunate. Jacob is certainly an opportunist but a man of industry as well. *He is God's appointed person for the covenantal blessing but he, with his mother, cannot wait to see how God will do things and they connive to get their own way.* In the long run, both lose a lot of the blessing that should have been theirs...and that is the way it usually goes when we are not ready to let God have His way and do His will. In our passage Jacob is fleeing his parental home under the guise of finding a wife of his own people. On the way to Haran he makes camp in a deserted area and has the ground for a bed and a stone for a pillow. It doesn't sound like a good motel but it is the night's accommodation and the best he can do but he has the ladder dream and in the finishing of this dream the Lord appears to Him. The Lord renews the covenant with Jacob and assures him, in verse 28, of his continuing presence and blessing. Jacob will respond when he awakens with an altar and a sacred vow in the light of the promise of God's presence with Him. In this meeting Jacob learns a great truth: it is the presence of God that makes the difference in life and the lesson is simply that: let us count on the presence of God. That will build our trust and strengthen whatever worship or service we have to offer.

- II. Discussion: Out of this general account we learn a number of things about the presence of the Lord and recognizing that presence is one of the great steps in trust. I enumerate these three concepts as being vital and understandable..