

Jacob—Rid Yourself of Idols (Genesis 35:1-15)

- Shocking events in life force us to see our need for turning to God. For many, without the shocking events of life, they would see no need to return to Him.
- We get so comfortable in our lives that we see no basic problems. We miss out on our kids because we thought everything was okay
- **Psa. 36:2 For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.**
- Many times when we settle in to living as though we are as good as other believers, God shocks us to show the shallowness of our relationship with Him
- **Jacob found this to be true in his life and in his family**
- After a bitter experience with his daughter Dinah being raped by Shechem and Shechem's father trying to arrange a marriage for peace, Dinah's brothers arranged a deceitful situation to kill all of the men of the city.
- Only after this did Jacob get back to where he should be
- Get rid of idols. Don't spend time on things that are not alive.

Three Reasons We Must Get Rid of Our Idols:

1. Only Cleansed People Can Meet God (Gen. 35:1-4)

- Out of this awful situation, the Lord urged Jacob to move his family 30 miles south of Shechem to Bethel.
- This was the same place where Jacob had a deep experience with God 30 years earlier.
- **Gen. 31:13** "I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.' "
- God gently took him back to his beginnings of his relationship
- Too bad it took a crisis but better a crisis than to miss the blessings of God.
- You must get rid of things not of God if He is to be on your side.
- The source of decay in Jacob's family was foreign gods
- Remove every competing loyalty from your heart and sight.
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2. Only God Can Protect Us When In Danger (Gen. 35:5-8)

- **WHEN God protects repentant people they are safer than someone guarded by a whole arsenal of modern day weapons**

- What will protect our families is a visit of God's Spirit upon our nation.
- Revival comes when God's word is central and reconciliation of His people to Himself.

3. Only God Can Change Our Personalities and Bless Us (Gen. 35:9-15)

- God changed Jacob's name. Jacob meant supplanter or he who grasps the heel.
- **Tragedy accomplished what a lifetime of wrestling with God could not.**