

Study Guide for August 22nd, 2010. A Painful Return: Genesis 35.

Introduction: How have you experienced God's faithfulness in times of great sorrow?

I. The Long Road to Arrive at Home: (Gen. 35:1-15)

A. Come home: (Gen. 35:1)

1. What vow had Jacob made earlier? (See Gen. 28:20-22) Where had he settled?
2. Where does God tell Jacob to settle? What does God tell Jacob to build?
3. Have you ever sensed God calling you "home"? What had to be overcome?

B. Clean out your past defilements: (Gen. 35:2-4)

1. What does Jacob tell his household to do? What does this all represent?
2. Where does Jacob invite his household to go? Why is this important?
3. How does Jacob's family respond? What is Jacob's final action?
4. What would such radical renunciation and dedication to God look like today?

C. Continue forward: (Gen. 35:5-8)

1. What obstacles would Jacob and his family face? How are those needs addressed?
2. What name does Jacob give the place? Compare with his earlier name? (28:18-22)
3. Whose obituary is cited? Whose is omitted? How might this impact Jacob?

D. Change your name: (Gen. 35:9-15)

1. What time frame is highlighted? What action does God take on Jacob's behalf?
2. What is the significance for Jacob to having his name changed to Israel?
3. What identification and promise does God make for Israel? (Compare Gen. 17:1-8)
4. How does Jacob / Israel respond to God's statement / promise?

II. Painful Reminders: (Gen. 35:16-29)

A. Death of a wife: (Gen. 35:16-20)

1. What name does Rachel give her son? Why would Jacob change it?
2. What do you make of the positioning of these events? (See Gen. 30:24 & 31:32)
3. How does Jacob memorialize his grief and loss?

B. Hatred of a son: (Gen. 35:21-22)

1. What action does Rueben take? What is he attempting? (See II Sam. 16:21-22)
2. What is Israel's . . . immediate response? (vs. 22) . . . later response? (Gen. 49:3-4)

Conclusion: What do we learn of God's grace in leading Jacob / Israel through all this?