

Introduction

Wednesday afternoon I received a call from my daughter, Laura. Her husband is a petroleum engineer and due to the prolonged downturn in the oil and gas industry, he got let go from his job at Ensco about seven months ago. He searched for job openings and submitted a lot of applications and was not able to find work. Finally, a couple of months ago he took a job as a floor hand for Helmerich & Payne, a land drilling contractor. A floorhand is the lowest man on the totem pole. Many of the floor hands are high school dropouts, not petroleum engineers. James did what he needed to do to provide for his family, and humbled himself. On Tuesday night, the Lord spoke to Laura in a dream and told her to look at the internal directory at Helmerich & Payne and contact the recruiter. So, on Wednesday, she told her husband about the dream and then she did exactly what the Lord told her. On behalf of James, she contacted the recruiter by email and told him which rig he was working on, and that he was working as a floor hand, even though he had a petroleum engineering degree. The recruiter called James' rig manager and asked about James. He wanted to know if he was a good worker. The rig manager said you only had to ask James one time and the job would get done. He said he was a hard worker with a good attitude. The recruiter then contacted the superintendent over that rig and asked if he knew that he had a drilling engineer working on one of his rigs. The superintendent and rig manager immediately called a meeting with James and brought him into the office. They told him that he would not need the locker he had asked for, and that this would probably be his last hitch. They told him that he would be interviewed later in the week and moved up into an engineering position. Laura was so excited for her husband. She was also excited about how God spoke to her and how she had done exactly what the Lord told her to do in the dream.

In our text today, the Lord spoke to Jacob, and told him to move to Bethel and build an altar. So Jacob is obedient, prepares himself and his family to worship God, and they move to Bethel. And, just as God spoke to my daughter and gave instruction, He spoke to Jacob, and Jacob did everything the Lord told him to do. Jacob was a worship leader.

Jacob Prepares For Worship God (Gen 35:1-8)

1. Jacob Obeyed (Gen 35:1-8)
2. Jacob Led and Consecrated His Family
3. Jacob Dealt With An Interruption (Gen 35:8-15)

1. Jacob Obeyed (Gen 35:1-8)

(Gen 35:1-8) "Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and live there, and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau." {2} So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments; {3} and let us arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." {4} So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem. {5} As they journeyed, there was a great terror upon the cities which were around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob. {6} So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him. {7} He built an altar there, and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed Himself to him when he fled from his brother. {8} Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the oak; it was named Allon-bacuth."

God spoke to Jacob and told him to arise, and go to Bethel, live there, and make an altar. God also mentions His previous encounter with Jacob at Bethel when he was fleeing his brother Esau. It is wonderful to have a place that you can go to when you are in trouble, down, discouraged, or upset. It used to be when Karen saw me get my guitar out and start worshipping, she would ask me if I was down. I don't get down that often, but when I am down or discouraged I build an altar and worship the Lord.

When Jacob fled his brother, Bethel was just a good stopping point. But God spoke to Jacob at Bethel in a dream. He saw a ladder going from earth to heaven and there were angels descending and ascending on that ladder. The Lord spoke to him in the dream telling him that He would be with him and He was going to give his descendants that land. When Jacob woke up from his dream, he declared, "Surely the Lord is in this place." (Gen 28:16) So, Jacob set up a pillar, anointed it with oil, and named the place Bethel, which means house of God. Jacob also vowed to give the Lord a tenth of everything that God gave him. Bethel is a very special place to Jacob, and now God was telling him to return to Bethel and make an altar.

Immediately after the Lord tells Jacob to arise and go to Bethel and make an altar, he tells his family, "Put away the foreign gods which are among you, and purify yourselves and change your garments; and let us arise and go up to Bethel, and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." Jacob immediately starts getting his family ready to go to Bethel. Obedience is an important part of worship. In 1 Samuel 15:22-23, Samuel rebukes Saul, saying, "*Has the LORD as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king.*" Saul had not obeyed God's instructions, and because of his rebellion, God rejected him from being king. Notice the priority that God shares, "*to obey is better than sacrifice.*" Jacob is preparing for worship, and obedience is a key step.

At one church that I was pastoring, we were in the midst of a remodeling project of our facility. I gave specific instructions to our team. I wanted to give final approval of the paint color, carpets, tile, etc. We had asked the congregation to get involved and there was a team of people who had an interest and some decorative skills. They picked out the carpet and tiles, and I had approved them. Then, I went on vacation and when I got back, the worship leader and her husband had changed the approved tiles, and started painting with a mustard color that had not been approved. Furthermore, I had specifically said that I did not want our facility painted in that mustard color. She had seen that color at another facility and liked it. Just like Saul, when I was not there, she took matters into her own hand and disobeyed. God expects His people, and His worship leaders to obey. To obey is better than to sacrifice.

There are lots of people that claim to be believers. They know that they should be going to church, but they are not going anywhere. They know that they should be reading their Bibles. They know that they should spend time in prayer. They know that they should forgive others. They know that they should be giving tithes and offerings to the Lord, but the average giving in the United States is between 2 and 2 ½ percent. In James 4:7, it says, "Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. "If we are going to be worshippers of God, we must be obedient to god. It is a priority of God.

Jacob told his family and those who were with him to purify themselves and change their garments. He was consecrating them so that they could appear before the Lord and worship Him. The putting away of idols, purifying, and changing of their garments all speak of cleanness, holiness, and righteousness. Our garments often represent our lives. God wants us to worship Him in holy attire. Notice what He says in Psalm 96:7-9. *“Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. Worship the LORD in holy attire; tremble before Him, all the earth.”* The priests had to come before Him in holy attire. They had to change their garments to put on holy garments to go before the Lord. Then, they had to remove those holy garments and put on other clothes to go outside. They had to be dressed in clean and holy garments.

Psalm 132:9 says, *“Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, And let Your godly ones sing for joy.”* The clothes or garments were righteousness. Righteous garments speak of our life and character. Notice what Job said in Job 29:14, *“I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.”* Again, his clothes represented his righteous character.

How do we change our garments? How do we put on clean garments or garments of righteousness? In Zechariah 3:3-5, Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him and said, *“Remove the filthy garments from him.”* Then he said, *“See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes.”* Our filthy garments are exchanged for clean garments when we receive God’s forgiveness for our sins or iniquities. This is also confirmed in Isaiah 61:10. The prophet said, *“I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness...”* We must put away the idols, purify ourselves, and come before the Lord dressed in righteousness – His righteousness.

2. Jacob Led and Consecrated His Family For Worship

Jacob tells his family to put away the foreign gods and to purify themselves and change their garments. Jacob understands that God is holy, and we have to come before God reverently. There is a preparation required before worship. I have told worship leaders in the past that they were not allowed to use, *Come, Now Is The Time To Worship*. In that song, it says, come, come as you are and worship. That is not Biblical. When we worship God, Jesus said that we need to worship in spirit and in truth. That song is not Biblically true. Jacob does not tell his family to come and go worship the way they were. He tells them to put away the foreign gods and purify themselves and change their garments. He is leading his family in worship by exhorting them to prepare themselves. He consecrates his family and prepares them for worship.

In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, He taught that if anyone was presenting their offering at the altar and remembered that their brother had something against him, they were to leave their offering at the altar and first be reconciled to his brother. Then, he could come present his offering. In other words, there were some things that needed to be in order when we come to worship God. The preparation for this person is to go make the relationship right with his brother.

(Matt 5:23-24) *“Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”*

Many years ago I showed up early on Sunday before the worship team arrived, and when one of the guitar players showed up, I could tell by his countenance that something was wrong. I said, "John, what's the matter?" He replied that he had just had a fight with his wife. I asked if it got resolved, and he shook his head "No." I then shared Matthew 5:23-24 and told him to go get things sorted out with his wife. I said it is important to be obedient to Scripture and get reconciled with his wife before presenting his offerings to the Lord. John did not make it back to the service that morning, but he had been obedient and he had worshipped God that morning.

On a different note about preparing to worship, in Hebrews 10:24-25, God tells us to consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. To consider means to think about and to ponder ways to stimulate others. We are told to encourage one another. We need to pray about who we are to encourage and stimulate and then how we can encourage them. Is it with a Scripture? Is it with thanks? Is it with a positive commendation about something in their life? We are to come prepared to encourage others. We should not just show up on Sundays; we need to come prepared.

Giving is a part of worship. Some have criticized me for not taking offerings in the services. I have chosen to emphasize faithfulness and honor, rather than sermonettes on giving every week and then passing the plate. I believe that people should give voluntarily, cheerfully, and generously. (See 2 Corinthians 9:7.) I believe we need to be faithful stewards of what God gives us. It all belongs to Him, and we are just stewards. I believe that we must learn to be faithful with unrighteous mammon. (See Luke 16:10-12.) I also believe that we are to honor God with the first of our produce. (See Proverbs 3:9-10.) My prayer is that our church will be one that honors God, not just in our giving, but in every area of our lives. Giving is a part of worship, and I am pleased to say that we are a giving church. I don't have to preach on it or exhort you in that area. When the text talks about giving, I teach on it. But, giving on Sunday means that we have to come prepared. We have to be good stewards of our money and spend less than we earn. Before I come on Sunday morning, I write out our tithe check. Karen and I have lived frugally for many years, and live debt free, so that we are in a position to give generously.

Jacob told his family to put away the idols and consecrate themselves. Rachel had stolen Laban's household idols. By now, Jacob knows that she has them. But, there were others that had idols that needed to be put away. Jacob also told them to take away the rings in their ears. There are two thoughts here. First, it was a common practice to put a ring in the ear of your slaves. The significance removing the earrings would be that they are not enslaved to anyone or any other god besides God. The other thought is that these earrings may have had idols or symbols of other gods on them, and they needed to remove all their idols and things associated with idolatry.

The first commandment is that we are not to have any other gods besides God. In Exodus 20:3, God said, "You shall have no other gods before Me. So, in order to worship God, they had to put away all the other gods. (See also: Deut 6:14, 2 Kings 17:35, Jer 25:6, 35:15.) In Deuteronomy 5:7-9, God said, "*You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, and on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,*" This commandment had not been given yet, but I believe God had communicated it to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They knew that they were not to have any idols.

Let's talk about idols for a minute. There are 175 references to idols in Bible – God has lots to say about idolatry in both OT and NT. It is highly unlikely that most people in churches have brought figures that are idols. However, the church is full of idolatry. John wrote in 1 John 5:21, *“Little children, guard yourselves from idols.”* Why do we have to be on guard? Because it is very easy to have idols.

What are some of the idols that we must be on guard against? Paul wrote in Colossians 3:5, *“Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.”* Notice the things that amount to idolatry: immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed. Is there immorality in the church? Yes, and it amounts to idolatry. Is there anger, jealousy, bitterness, and unforgiveness in the church? Yes, and it amounts to idolatry. Is there greed in the church? Yes, and it amounts to idolatry. We have to be on guard against those things.

Paul was a worshipper of God. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas had been put in jail in Philippi. Luke records that at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise. They were worshipping God. He was not just a worshipper; he was a worship leader. In his teaching and in his letters, he exhorted the church to put away these various idols so that they could worship God. He was leading them in worship, just like Jacob was.

(Acts 16:25) *“But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”*

In Ezekiel 14:1-4, God talks about idols that we put in front of our face. In fact, anything that stands between God and us is an idol. When you come to worship, we cannot put anyone before God. During worship, are you more preoccupied with the person next to you than God, that person may well be an idol in your life. Any relationship that comes before God is an idol.

Notice what Jesus said in Luke 14:26, *“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”* God is not telling us to hate our father and mother. He is just saying that our love for God has to be above every other relationship in our lives. Our parents and other relationships can become an idol if they stand between us and God. Our spouse can be an idol, if he or she becomes more of a priority than God. I am very blessed to be married to a woman who loves God more than me. Karen is very blessed to be married to a man who loves God more than her. She is not an idol to me, and I am not an idol to her. Because we are both worshipping God, we have a much stronger marriage.

Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:5, *“For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”* Those are pretty strong words. God is looking for a church that worships Him and Him alone and does not have any idols.

I mentioned that Paul was a worship leader, not in the sense that the church uses it today, but he led the church into worship. Jacob is also a great worship leader. He is helping his family and those with them to prepare their hearts for worship. A good worship leader leads people into worship of God. A good worship leader is not a good musician. I have known lots of good musicians who were not good worship leaders; they were just good musicians. I believe that having some musical skills definitely helps when leading worship, but it is not the main criteria. I

am praying for someone to help with worship, but I am praying for someone who is a worshipper, not just a musician.

Recently, I met a guitar player, and he said he is a Christian. I asked him where he was going to church. He said that he has not been to church in a long time. A worshipper is going to be in God's house regularly worshipping God. I asked him what kind of music he likes to play. He said he likes rhythm and blues. A worshipper may like rhythm and blues, but his passion is going to be worshipping God. We are not looking for someone to lead us in rhythm and blues. We are praying for someone who is an intimate worshipper of God and who can lead people into worship. I can lead worship because I am a worshipper. I play guitar to help me in my worship of God, and I worship God every day. Even when I played professional golf, I traveled with my guitar. God gave me lots of new songs, and these primarily came out of my worship times with the Lord. To lead people into worship, you have to be a worshipper. Jacob was a worship leader because he knew what was required and he was leading his family into worship.

What is worship? To the average American, worship is singing some religious songs to the Lord. In some circles, praise is upbeat music to the Lord, and worship is slower music sung to the Lord. Can I tell you something? Worship may or may not have anything to do with music at all. When we worship God, we are offering spiritual sacrifices to God. Jacob was going to build an altar to present sacrifices to God. What are those sacrifices? Let's take a look at some of the sacrifices.

In the Old Testament there were lots of different types of sacrifices. There were guilt offerings, sin offerings, burnt offerings, peace offerings, grain offerings, drink offerings, and then special offerings for the temple and its furnishings. There were tithes that were given outside of these offerings. Most of these offerings were bloody, messy, and laborious. They were also continual because we sin continually.

In the New Testament, Jesus was the one-time sacrifice for all of our sins, past, present, and future. We have a much better covenant. Therefore, instead of offering all these animal sacrifices, we offer thanksgiving for what Jesus did for us. Notice what God tells us in Hebrews 13:15-16. *"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. {16} And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."* We are to continually offer up a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. In addition to those sacrifices, we are to do good and share with others. Those are acts of worship also.

We saw in Acts 16 that Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns. Most people believe that the singing is part of worship, but they have a hard time with the prayer. A few years ago a worship leader told Karen and I that praying in church was weird. They said that it was keeping people from coming to church. They wanted us to get rid of corporate prayer. They did not understand that prayer is part of worship. Notice in Revelations 5:8-9 that the living creatures and elders are worshipping the Lamb. They were each holding a harp and a golden bowl full of incense. John tells us that the incense are the prayers of the saints. These creatures and elders had harps and were singing a new song, and they had bowls of incense, which were prayers. The worship in heaven includes prayers and songs. That is not weird. That should be happening on earth just as it is in heaven. Our prayer time this morning was part of our worship of God.

(Rev 5:8-9) “When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. {9} And they *sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.”

In Romans 12:1, Paul talks about another sacrifice. He said, “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy *sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*” The rest of Romans 12 is about the use of spiritual gifts. Our service, and that will differ with all of us because we have different gifts, is an acceptable sacrifice to God. When Sarah Doyle created the overheads for us this morning, her service was worship. When Tom cleaned the bathrooms this week in preparation for service, that was an act of worship. When Justin and Heather cleaned the church on Saturday and got it ready, that was an acceptable sacrifice to God and an act of worship. When Connie greeted people at the door, that was worship. Worship is not just singing songs or giving money. It is offering up our lives.

In Ps 51:17, God said that the sacrifices of God are a broken and contrite heart. A contrite heart is one that is grieved over the sin in the person’s life. Jacob told his family to put away the idols. He is calling them to repentance. He is calling them to have a broken and contrite heart. Notice what God tells us in Psalm 50. If He were hungry, He would not tell us. He wants us to offer Him a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and to live holy lives before him. Let me read verses twelve through twenty-three.

(Ps 50:12-23) “If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains. {13} Shall I eat the flesh of bulls Or drink the blood of male goats? {14} Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving And pay your vows to the Most High; {15} Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.” {16} But to the wicked God says, "What right have you to tell of My statutes And to take My covenant in your mouth? {17} For you hate discipline, And you cast My words behind you. {18} When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, And you associate with adulterers. {19} You let your mouth loose in evil And your tongue frames deceit. {20} You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. {21} These things you have done and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state *the case* in order before your eyes. {22} Now consider this, you who forget God, Or I will tear *you* in pieces, and there will be none to deliver. {23} He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving honors Me; And to him who orders *his way aright* I shall show the salvation of God.”

People come to worship at church without any preparation. They fight with their spouse or their children on the way to church. They come without honoring God with their first fruits. They come with unconfessed sins, and unrepentant hearts. The sacrifices that we offer are strange offerings, not what pleases God. Aaron’s two sons offered up strange fire before the Lord, and God was not pleased. Let’s pick up the account in Leviticus 10:1-3. “*Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'" So Aaron, therefore, kept silent.*” The church needs to learn to offer the sacrifices that will please and honor God. If church would

come prepared for worship, we would not need fog machines in churches. The glory of God would fill His house.

The true mark of a leader is if people follow. In verse four, Jacob's family gave him all the foreign gods and the rings in their ears and he hid them under the oak near Shechem. Then, they journeyed on to Bethel. Jacob hid them so that they would not find them and take them back. They left all those idols behind and moved on towards Bethel, where they would worship. They were going to build an earthly altar at Bethel, but they had already been building an altar on the way. They had presented to God a broken and contrite heart. They had put aside all the foreign gods and were only going to worship the one true God.

Notice what God did for them in verse five. God put a great terror upon the cities around them, so that they did not pursue Jacob and his family. The NASB said there was a great terror, but the KJV is actually a more accurate translation. It reads, "And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that *were* round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob." God protected them. As they prepared their hearts and offered pleasing sacrifices to God, He responded by putting a terror on the surrounding cities and protected them.

When they finally got to Bethel, Jacob "built an altar there, and called the place El-bethel, because there God had revealed Himself to him when he fled from his brother." Our text does not mention the types or quantities of offerings that Jacob offered to God at the altar. We just read that he made an altar and then God spoke to him.

3. **Jacob Dealt With An Interruption In Worship** (Gen 35:8)

(Gen 35:8) "Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the oak; it was named Allon-bacuth.

After Jacob built an altar, God met with him. Something happened in the midst of our story. Deborah, Rebekah's nurse died and they buried her under the oak. This is real life. When we are on our way to worship, we sometimes get interruptions. Mothers with small children know this only too well. Their whole life is full of constant interruptions that have to be dealt with. Jacob and his family are there to present their offerings, and they have to take time to bury Deborah.

Deborah was obviously very well loved, liked, and respected. She had helped Rebekah raise Jacob. Esau was a man of the field, and Jacob was a domestic man, so he had probably spent a lot of time with her. She was like a second mom to him. When Rebekah died, she probably came to live with Jacob's family. They buried her under the oak at Bethel and it was named Allon-bacuth, which means "oak of weeping." They were greatly saddened by her death, and they wept and grieved for her.

Earlier we looked at Matthew 5:23-24 where Jesus told us to lay our offering down at the altar and go be reconciled to our brother first. Offenses in our lives can interfere with our worship. They can distract us in our worship. We need to put them aside so that we can worship God. Sometimes we need to go to our brother or sister and make things right. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit, who convicts us of sin, righteousness, and judgment, will bring to mind something that we need to repent of. We simply need to confess it as sin and move on. We saw that a broken and contrite heart are acceptable sacrifices to God. You are worshipping when you confess them.

After confessing, you are more prepared to give thanks and praise God. We must deal with the interruptions and distractions so that we can freely worship God.

Sometimes we are distracted in worship by others around us. We may have to move to a different place. We may have to find a quiet place. In an assembly, it helps to close your eyes and pull the curtains closed around you. There are going to be distractions and interruptions, and we may have to stop doing what we are doing and then go back to worship. That is what Jacob and his family did. They took time out to bury Deborah and grieve for her, and then they resumed their worship of God.

Next week, we will be looking at Part 2, God's Participation In Worship.

Conclusion and Applications

In our text, we saw that God called Jacob to Bethel to build an altar and worship him. Jacob obeyed and consecrated himself and his family. This morning, God is telling His church, His bride, the same message. Come to the house of God and build an altar. He is telling His bride to put away idols and to change their garments. He is coming for a bride that has wedding attire on. He is coming for a bride without spot or wrinkle. He is coming for a bride that knows Him, worships Him, and is love with Him.

In Revelations 3:20, the Lord says that He is standing at the door and knocking. If anyone opens the door to their heart, He will come in and dine with them.

(Rev 3:20) "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me."

This morning, are you clothed in Christ? Have you opened the door and asked Him to come into your heart? If you have received Christ into your life, are there things in your life that stand between you and your worship of God? God is calling His church to put away immorality, impurity, and greed and leave them behind as you go to Bethel to worship. We are going to close this morning with The Heart Of Worship by Matt Redman.

When the music fades, and all is stripped away and I simply come, Longing just to bring, something that's of worth, That will bless Your name, I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself, Is not what You have required, You search much deeper within, Through the way things appear, You're looking into my heart. I'm coming back to the heart of worship, And it's all about You, all about You, Jesus. I'm sorry Lord for the things I've made it, When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.

Introduction

- 1. Jacob Obeyed** (Gen 35:1-8, 28:16, 1 Sam 15:22-23)

- 2. Jacob Led and Consecrated His Family For Worship** (Matt 5:23-24, Heb 10:24-25, 2 Cor 9:7, Luke 16:10-12, Pr 3:9-10, Ex 20:3, Deut 6:14, 2 Kings 17:35, Jer 25:6, 35:15, 1 John 5:21, Col 3:5, Acts 16:25, Ez 14:1-4, Luke 14:26, Eph 5:5, Heb 13:15-16, Rev 5:8-9, Rom 12:1, Ps 51:17, 50:12-23, Lev 10:1-3, Ps 96:7-9, 132:9, Job 29:14, Zech 3:3-5, Is 61:10)

- 3. Jacob Dealt With An Interruption In Worship** (Gen 35:8)

Conclusion and Applications (Rev 3:20)