



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

16/17 November 2018

Vol. 40, No. 45

Coming Back to a Heart of Worship: Snapping Out of Spiritual Mediocrity

Genesis 35:1-29

English Services

(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service

(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-aawitan
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Panalanging Pastoral
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Sam Rendal
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

*See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.*



Coming Back to a Heart of Worship: Snapping Out of Spiritual Mediocrity

Today's Message (16/17 November 2018) /
Genesis 35:1-29

IT IS GOOD
FOR US TO
LEARN FROM
HIM AND
GO BACK
TO WHAT
MATTERS
MOST,
BACK TO A
HEART THAT
WORSHIPS
GOD.

Around thirty years earlier, Jacob said at Bethel "If God will be with me...the LORD will be my God and this stone... will be God's house" (*Genesis 28:20-22*). It was a vow to worship God at that very place. God faithfully did His part. But Jacob stopped short of returning to Bethel. Jacob had become comfortable at Shechem. He went through a decade of spiritual mediocrity. Then Dinah's rape and the ravages of his children's rage shook Jacob up. Suddenly, he was ready to listen to God, who now speaks again.

How do you snap out of spiritual mediocrity? Genesis 35 shows us how Jacob began to grow spiritually again. We snap out of spiritual mediocrity by coming back to a heart of worship.

There are four simple things any believer can do to go back to a heart of worship:

1. OBEY THE O_____: WHAT IS GOD CLEARLY SPEAKING TO YOU ABOUT?

- It was dangerous for Jacob to set out to Bethel, but it was more dangerous for him to disobey God. The only thing that saved him was a radical obedience to God. No matter what the circumstances look like, the safest place is in the center of God's will.
- God requires our worship from "clean hands and a pure heart" (*Psalms 24:3-4*).
- The reminder of the new name was important, because Jacob had been acting like Jacob instead of Israel. Yet, God wants to set his mind on what God made him. God does the same with us, reminding us who we are in Him. God wants us to remember and live in the great names He gives us.

2. KEEP YOUR C_____: WHAT HAVE YOU PROMISED GOD, THAT YOU MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN OR OVERLOOKED?

- This is an excellent example of what it means to go back to your first love, as Revelation 2:4-5 mentions: Jacob *remembers* to go back to Bethel. He *repents* by getting rid of all the idols, and he does the *first works* by building an altar and worshipping God as before.

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude
Call To Worship
Worship Through Praise
Worship Through Fellowship
Scripture Reading
Preparatory Hymn
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship Through Giving
Response Hymn
Benediction



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3. REST UPON GOD'S R_____: WHAT HAS HE CLEARLY PROMISED AND ASSURED YOU ABOUT, IN THE PAST?

- God's promises are secure despite the disobedience of His children (2 *Timothy* 2:13).
- Jacob did not need to hear anything new from God. He just needed to be reminded of what was true, and encouraged to cling to it all.

4. TRUST GOD IN YOUR T_____. RESTRUCTURING OFTEN FOLLOWS REVIVAL: HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO WHAT GOD REMOVES OR INTRODUCES IN YOUR LIFE?

- Jacob will suffer through three Deaths and one Dilemma. Deborah, Rachel, and Isaac all died, marking the end of an era.

Obedience doesn't guarantee a problem-free life. But in the tragedies God uses to shake us out of spiritual mediocrity, we have the God of Jacob as "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (*Psalms* 46:1,7,11).

- Reuben's sexual blunder was most likely a politically motivated move in an effort to usurp power from his own father. But it was not God's way, and was doomed to fail (*Numbers* 32:23). The consequences would be the very opposite of his goal (*Genesis* 49:3-4). Yet again in this, Jacob was not entirely innocent.

FINAL THOUGHTS

There aren't many formulas to a personal spiritual revival, there is only one. There aren't many ways to snapping out of the despair of life's tragedies, but only one. It is to return to a focus on God, back to a heart that worships Him purely. And He who looks into the heart and knows all things, will take the most feeble of our offerings and when He sees the heart is right, is honored by it. And then we find the healing for our spiritual and emotional brokenness at the hands of the Master Physician.

It would take Jacob over 30 years, 20 in Haran and ten in Shechem, to learn all these. It is good for us to learn from him and go back to what matters most, back to a heart that worships God.

2 Chronicles 16:9 says, "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His" ■

Longing just to bring, something that's of worth, that will bless your heart...

You search much deeper within, through the way things appear, You're looking into my heart.

I'm coming back to a heart of worship, and it's all about You, Jesus.

—Matt Redman

The Shepherd's Voice

by Pastor Erik Dizon

SIMPLY SHARING

Many say 'NO' to disciple making simply because they think they have not "arrived" yet in their spiritual life. Perhaps you are one of those who say, "I have too much yet to learn before I can lead someone in his spiritual sojourn." Let me share a perspective that I pray will change your mind and spur you on to the wonderful journey of simply sharing with someone else your life as a disciple of Christ.

Imperative to discipleship is your own connectedness to the Source of Life, Christ. Apart from Him, spiritual fruit bearing will not occur. Using the analogy of a vineyard, Jesus taught his followers that He is the vine and they are the branches. If they abide in Him, life will flow and fruit-bearing will happen. The life of Christ will flow in and through them resulting in a fruitful life (John 15). If you pause to think about it, this is what being filled with the Spirit is about. It is a life journey of abiding in Christ.

Christian discipleship is about simply sharing your life in Christ with someone else. We cannot share what we do not have. That is why we need to remain connected to the Life Source and allow that Life from the Vine to flow in and through us.

We are meant to live in community. The journey of following Christ is something we embark on with others. We need one another in the journey of following the Lord. We love one another. We encourage one another. We spur one another toward growing in our love for God. The love of Christ in us is the

one that draws people to become His followers, too.

As we live in community, we need someone to come alongside us as we attempt to share our lives with another. We need a discipler to be with us in our sojourn as a disciple-maker. The things you gain from your life journey with your discipler are the things you share with someone else. Discipleship involves one step at a time. As you learn, you teach. As you gain, you share. As you are equipped, you equip. It is about life-sharing, one step at a time.

Consider these simple steps toward being a disciple-maker:

1. Genuinely care for someone through prayer. Pray for and with your disciple.
2. Give time regularly for your disciple. In various settings, nurture the discipleship relationship.
3. Listen and learn from one another. Through multiple conversations share what God is teaching or revealing to each of you.
4. Share how you may pray for one another.

Through the course of your discipleship relationship, pray for God to equip you to grow, and pass it on to your disciple. Inspire, equip and mobilize him/her to become a disciple-maker as well.

Remain in the Vine and usher in a discipleship journey with someone that is Spirit-led and empowered by the love Christ! ■

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



UNDERSTANDING THE DARKNESS

GCF Youth L.I.V.E. talk on depression
November 23 (Fri), 6:30 p.m. at BM07-08
Parents of the youth and youth leaders are invited to attend. Dinner will be served.
Please text **0917 532 7741** to register.



"BASTA'T KASAMA KITA..."

Naomi Women's Ministry Christmas Fellowship
Speaker: Pastor Noel Pabiona
December 1 (Sat), 10:00 a.m. here at GCF
All widows are invited.
Please text **0917 532 7713** to register.



CHANCEL CHOIR RECRUITMENT

There is joy in serving Jesus!
The Chancel Choir invites church members to consider serving the Lord through singing.
Rehearsal schedules: 3 p.m. (Sat), 2 p.m. (Sun). Please contact Josh Capule at **0915 601 1211** if you are interested.



GGEX EXTREME

featuring How to Make Decisions You Won't Regret (Lessons on David's Life)
All adults without GG are invited.
Nov. 18 (Sun), 12-3 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Free lunch and material will be provided.
You may still register at the venue.

FAMILY CONFERENCE: December 2 (Sun.) after the 10:30 a.m. service. All regular members in the church roster are invited to attend.

Election-related Announcement: Information on the candidates for church leaders are already available through the insert on this bulletin and the LED TVs around the church. Please continue to pray as we prepare to elect our new leaders on December 8 and 9.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God by the Basilad family and the Messiah College. Please call 632 1354 to 56 to know how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

New Growth Group (Mixed)

Topic: Counting the Real Cost of Being A Disciple
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Rm. B124 (Growth Group Center)

Best Together in Christ

Group for Couples
Sundays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Rm. B508

Spark Growth Group

Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Seniors' Room

Life in Technicolor

support group for cancer patients and survivors
Every 3rd Sunday of the month
12:00-3:00 p.m., Seniors' Rm.

Overcomers

support group for those under any kind of addiction
Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at **0917 532 1921**.*

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / November 2018

November Budget		Received, Nov. 1 to 14	Jan. to Nov. Budget		Received, Jan. 1 to Nov. 14
General Fund	7,618,215	4,228,283	General Fund	95,440,729	80,296,011
Missions Fund	927,000	556,836	Missions Fund	10,197,000	8,801,015

The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
— Luke 10:29 (NLT)

The expert in the Jewish law asked Jesus which of the commandments is the greatest. Though, as it was revealed in the passage, he was not looking for an answer, but a validation of his biases, as the Jews' concept of neighbor is limited only to their fellow Jews. Outsiders, unless converted, were not considered as neighbors, hence they are not to be loved.

Jesus confronted this bias by giving a parable. A man robbed and left to die was shown mercy, not by anyone who was expected to be righteous, but by someone who was an outcast of the Jewish community—a Samaritan. It seemed that religious piety did not translate into showing compassion to another.

One of the great hindrances to our spiritual growth is our self-determination and self-sufficiency. We define our own rules and

rely on our own strength and capabilities. We think that faith is our own making and ours for the taking. Often times we approach faith as a pursuit. Although that is not completely wrong, we, too, oftentimes make a mistake of seeing this pursuit only at the individual's level. We come to neglect and forget our social responsibility to "act justly, love mercy" as we "walk humbly before the Lord."

As we come to know that God is love, full of compassion and hospitality, may our devotion and faith translate to showing the same love. Let us pray to be a people who are in solidarity with victims of injustice. May we receive a faith that is the same as Jesus, who, being God, chose to become poor and called the poor blessed ■

We think that faith is our own making and ours for the taking.

REFLECT: *How are you becoming a living example of God's compassion and hospitality to your neighbor? To those who are unlike you?*

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS *at the Chapel*

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

ON THE COVER: Sunset over the skyline of the city of Haifa in Israel (Wikimedia). The Jewish people whose home country now bears Jacob's name has come a long way from being a stateless, persecuted world minority into one of the most prosperous countries on earth.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship
Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357
Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- ☐ I am a first-time guest.
- ☐ I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- ☐ I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- ☐ I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- ☐ **I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- ☐ I want to start a Growth Group.
- ☐ I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **16/17 November 2018**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (2 Corinthians 5:18).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.