

July 15, 2017

Reflections

REFLECTIONS

¹¹ *“Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob,’ and I said, ‘Here I am..’”*

Genesis 31:11 (NASB)

Here I Am

When God calls our name, what our response should be isn't always obvious. I know when God first called my name in the New Auburn Seventh Day Baptist Church, I ran and hid. I wasn't sure how to answer, so I did what came naturally. What I didn't know then, but would eventually learn, is that there is only one right response when God calls your name. I figured that out later that fall in a gymnasium in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. That is what we learn from Jacob in Genesis 31:1-16, when God called his name and told him it was time to head home.

Jacob had learned quite a bit since going to Haran. How it felt to be cheated and used. What it was like to work with people who don't keep their word. The difficulty of working with a dysfunctional family. Working with Laban had been no walk in the park. In fact, it was a lot like working with Jacob, and coming to that realization must have stung a bit.

But while all of this was happening, Jacob had grown. He had changed. He was slowly becoming the man God knew He was all along. From his birth God had known that Jacob would be the one He would establish His covenant with, just as God had established His covenant with Abraham and Isaac. Jacob was the child of the promise, chosen by God to father the sons who would become the twelve tribes of Israel. He wasn't perfect yet...not by a long shot. We'll see how true that is next week. But he was headed in the right direction. So, God said, it was time to head home.

Having heard from God, we further see the change in Jacob by what he chose to do next. He didn't just start packing his bags. Jacob talked it over with his family. Jacob knew what it was like to head into the unknown. So, he made sure that they understood why he was leaving and encouraged them to come along, sensitive to the fact that they would leave their family and all they knew behind. Leah and Rachel agreed it was time to do whatever God said to do. So, Jacob rose and took the first steps toward leaving this land and returning to the land of his birth.

What I want you to remember from this story, though, isn't that Jacob had changed, or that he was the child of the promise, or even that he was sensitive towards his family. No, what I want you to remember is Jacob's response to God calling his name. It wasn't to run and hide. It was simply, "Here I am."

Whatever God is calling you to today, the right response isn't to run and hide (Adam). There is only one thing you need say, and it is the same thing Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Isaiah and Samuel said when God call their name: "Here I am."

As this week unfolds, listen for God's voice and look for opportunities to say, "Here I am." God isn't looking for you to be perfect. Jacob wasn't, that's for sure. We already know that God works with what He has, to accomplish what He wills. God hasn't called your name because He knows that you are perfect, but because He knows that you are willing. Even that is not of your own doing. You are willing because God has given you the faith you need to move when He tells you it is time to head home.

*Pray for our church plant
in Clifton Park, NY.*

Pray With Us

Bob Michaels: Continue to pray for John Palmer as he is still having serious breathing issues.

Ray Felt: Thankful their car is repaired after it was run into by a gas truck. They are very thankful no one was hurt and their car is fixed.

Donna Mace: Her boss Donna's husband Bill Fitzgerald has stage four cancer and the chemo he was taking is not working. Pray that the doctors will find an effective treatment for him. Keep both Bill and Donna in prayer for peace and comfort.

Jason Capasso: Continue to pray for his brother to find other outlets for his stress. May God touch his heart and change him. Pray for his daughter Haley also.

Damian Greene: Continue to pray for her brother, Dan as he is making unwise choices. May God intervene and change his heart. Pray for Denise also.

Jon Gerstel: A co-worker Luke van Allen needs prayer for salvation. May Luke be safe as he races in New Lebanon later today.

Stacey Sicko: She met with her boss and they will work with Stacey so she can return to work on August 7. Pray she continues to heal and is able to do her job. Her son John is making decisions about his future, pray for God to guide him.

Craig Mosher: He has accepted the facilities manager position at Grace Christian School. Due to Ethiopia closing out of country adoptions they will need to look for alternative places to adopt a child. Pray that he and Alicia will find other options.

Matt Olson: Pray for a new outreach program for the Bennington youth that were at camp and accepted Christ.

Paula Dibble: Thankful her friend Jim is walking without crutches after his fall. Continue to pray for his healing. Her friend Jean's son Timothy is moving to VT to pastor a church there, pray for safe travel.

Youth Fellowship,

Monday, 6:30-8:00 pm

(grades K-12)

Weekly Events

Men's & Women's Bible Study on hiatus until September

Upcoming Events

SDB General Conference, July 23-30, at Azusa Pacific University in CA

Backpack Ministry, August 29th, backpack distribution

July Operation Christmas Child Collection Items

Any clothing items.

Backpack Ministry

See the poster in the foyer or check the website for updates on the school supplies we need. We will distribute backpacks on Tuesday, August 29th.