

Intro: When you come to the place where Jesus is all you HAVE, you discover that Jesus is all you NEED!

- I was 19 or 20 years old and had been running from God for over 2 years
- Became a believer @ 17, Sr in HS, and knew He called me into ministry...should go to college and train...Didn't want
- So I ran...as far and as fast as I could. Back to everything God delivered me from. 2 yrs later I found Alone...Afraid
- Hotel room in Farmville, NC...Thanksgiving Day, worked all morning, driven all afternoon, dropped off, Gmother's
- Pre cel, Pre cable, Pre microwave, no friendly open buffet, I had no one to call, no where to go. Alone Me and God
- Remember sitting there, Cold Campbell's soup, warm beer thinking, Put the "Do not Disturb" Pay for week...No One
- Jesus and I had a talk that day...I made a decision to quit running...turn around...go home...
- All alone in that hotel room I found the reality of God's love, and forgiveness, and hope in a way I had never imagined

EVERY FOLLOWER OF CHRIST COMES TO THAT PLACE AT SOME POINT IN THEIR WALK WITH JESUS THE PLACE OF ABSOLUTE DEPENDENCE...WHERE HE IS ALL YOU HAVE...TEACHING YOU...ALL YOU NEED

- Moses got there Desert, literally MILLIONS of people depending on him...standing before rock...WATER
- Joshua got there Standing looking at walls of Jericho...wondering...how in the WORLD ever come down
- Abraham went there Walking up the mountain, Isaac his son asking "Dad...where is the lamb for offering?"
- Esther went there Walking into the presence of the King, pleading for her people, "If I die I die!"
- Elijah went there Wilderness...running for his life...center of God's will...watching as brook dries up
- Ruth went there Alienated, alone, starving in a foreign land..no one to turn to
- Gideon went there Hiding in a winepress, hearing God speak and saying...YOU are the man
- Jesus was there On His knees in the Garden of Gethsemane, Asleep!!! Praying...if there is ANY way

YOU CAN'T GET THROUGH THIS LIFE AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS WITHOUT LEARNING THIS LESSON HOW TO BE ALONE...WITH GOD BEING ALL YOU HAVE...AND UNAFRAID...BECAUSE HE IS ALL YOU NEED IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY LEARNED THIS LESSON...ITS COMING YOUR WAY...I PROMISE

LOOK WITH ME AT JACOBS STORY...AND LET'S LAUNCH THIS SERIES

UNAFRAID _Gen 28: Pg 20

1. JACOB WAS ALONE.

Gen 28:10-11 Pg 20

First thing I want you to see here is, it doesn't matter how you get to this place in your life. That's where you ARE DEAL There are all kinds of paths, all kinds of rationales, all kinds of reasons that lead to this place...But: When THERE, THERE!

a. Different reasons for finding yourself in this place: For....

- Moses...it was the cost of leadership "Set my people free"
- Elijah...cost of being in the CENTER of God's will "Go to the brook and wait...I'll feed you there!"
- Esther...cost of doing right thing, intervening on behalf of God's people "If I die...I die"
- Ruth...Life...Stuff happens "Husband dies...leaves her alone in foreign land"
- Jacob...No one to blame but HIMSELF! He is here...because he put himself in this place!

b. When you are there...the topography almost always looks the same...regardless of how you got there: For Jacob...

- No Family (Brother hated him, Mom lying for him, Father didn't respect him) Ch 27:41ff
- No Friends (Running for his life...mom told him...you better get out of Dodge!)
- No Future: No sure place to go...Distant relative he doesn't even know!
- No "job" to go to, no place return to, with a checkered past and an unsure future, Family, Friends, all written him off
- WHO wants to be Jacob's friend? He will stab you in back, Just like he did his own brother!
- Things are so bad...All he has in the wilderness are the clothes on his back...STONE FOR A PILLOW! Vs 10
Jacob is ALONE...And He has NOTHING but God

2. JACOB MET GOD WHEN HE THOUGHT HE WAS ALONE. Gen 28:12-17

In reality we COULD say that God found Jacob...not that Jacob found God! Either way...Look at the story

In that place of being alone...Probably hopeless, helpless...and Afraid: Jacob found 3 things

a. Jacob found the Presence of God:

Vs 16-17 "Sure the Lord is in this place, and I did not know!"

~Dream: God spoke to Jacob very clearly. (When everything else is stripped away you can hear!)
Applic: Sometimes we NEED to be alone in order to hear (Still small quiet voice) TOO LOUD!

~Confidence: "Surely" Lit = "Beyond a shadow of a doubt Jehovah is in this place!"

~Awareness: "I did not know!" God was here...and I didn't acknowledge, perceive, realize, recognize
Applic: We are all that way from time to time aren't we? God is present...we just don't see Him To a man or woman, that is true when you look at the path they walk. FELT ALONE!

But, God was there...they just needed to be "Tuned in!" Mostly, need to "Turn off" Other things!

Applic: God is ALWAYS present in the life of His people...Always looking and listening for those open to Him

You may not see him, may not recognize Him, may not hear Him: Not even KNOW He is there: HE is

David: Psalm 139:7-12 "Where can I go from your presence?"

b. *Jacob found the Promise of God's blessing for His life.* Vs 13-15 "I will not leave you until I have **DONE**..."

Look at what God had to say to Jacob! This man, charlatan, crook, cheated brother, running for His life
Man that had nothing...ALONE in Wilderness with nothing but a stone for a pillow...and the promise of God

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| 1. I will give you a place | (Land lying on) | Had no place |
| 2. I will give you family | (Offspring like dust!) | Had no family |
| 3. I will give you blessing | (All families of earth blessed thru you) | Cursed by his brother |
| 4. I will give you protect you | (Keep you where you go, bring back!) | Lost in wilderness |
| 5. I will give you my presence | (I am WITH you, Not LEAVE you!) | Every promise fulfilled |

Jacob, all the things grieve over losing...I will restore, all the things you left behind, I will rebuild, all thought was lost
All the things in the future, family, place, impact on the world...Jacob...those are not beyond MY reach! I have a Promise
Jeremiah: 29:11-13

c. *Jacob found a Plan for living for God going forward.* Vs 18-22

It is one thing to sense God's presence, and know His promises, it is quite another to have an actionable PLAN For life
That is what Jacob came up with here...and I think his plan is a pretty good template for all of us. Look at it!

These are the actions that will help you rebuild your life, provide a FOUNDATION of Godly living, God's presence

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| 1. Worship: | I am going to worship God! | He set up the stone, consecrated it to the Lord, |
| 2. Obedience: | He made a vow of obedience to walk with God: God if that's your plan: I'm with YOU | |
| 3. Dependence: | Be with me: Keep me: My God Lit = <i>to build a hedge of protection around me; bread clothes</i> | |
| 4. Sacrifice: | Not a one way street! Not all; <i>What can YOU do for me!</i> | Live out commitment 10% |

Applic: God, I understand that every single thing I have comes from YOU...I acknowledge and respond 10%

Key: When Jacob THOUGHT He was alone...He discovered that God was right there WITH him...ready to meet every need
When you come to the place where Jesus is all you HAVE, you discover that Jesus is all you NEED!

CONCL Maybe you are here this morning and you feel like Jacob did that night.

Alone...Isolated...Everything you have ever hoped for, looked forward to, depended upon...gone.

Maybe you are alone today. And honestly, it doesn't matter how you got to this place

- Like Jacob and me...You did it to yourself
- Moses, price of leadership
- Ruth...Maybe it is just life.

If you find yourself in that place...Alone, Isolated...Afraid, I want to encourage you to follow Jacobs pattern today

1. Listen and Look for God presence: He is right here with you, NEVER left. Waiting for you to turn back

2. Look for His Promise for You: He has one. You may think that your life is over, destroyed, impossible to come back from where you are, the mistakes you have made, the prices you have paid, the past, present and future destroyed. Not true. God can redeem the very WORST of life and restore, renew and rebuild. Just have to embrace His promise

3. Commit to start living for Him, following His Plan for your life.

Worship regularly

Obedience...even when you don't like it our understand

Dependence upon His strength...not your own

Sacrifice: Be willing to enter into an authentic discipleship relationship where you SERVE Him!

All yesterday while I was writing this sermon God kept saying...

There will be someone there tomorrow that feels it is hopeless, lost, over

Tell them...I'm still God, I'm still here, I have been waiting for them to turn to me.

Will you do that today?

Invitation: Come forward say Pastor, Will you pray with me

Take CC, fill it out....Let me know....

Then Look, Listen, Commit to living for Him