



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, January 28, 2024

Call to Praise: *This is Amazing Grace*
Oxygen

Welcome, announcements, and prayer:

- **Good morning and Thanks for joining our Worship Service today!**
- **The Weekly Bible Study will be on Wednesday, January 10, on lesson #2, question #10.** The series will be about “Where is God in the midst of suffering?” The bible study (#2) is on the back table. These will also be emailed to those that are requesting them.
- **The 2023 year-end giving statements went out last week.** If you don't receive within 3-5 days please contact the office.
- **The Celebration of Life for Rick Hartman will be February 17 at 1:00 PM in Sacramento. Details to follow. We can arrange carpools.**
- **The MDC Building Construction has resumed. Praise God!** Please pick up the latest update information on the back table.
- **We are continuing to collect recyclable plastic, glass, and aluminum cans and bottles** as a fund raiser for Children's ministry. These can also be dropped off in the carport of the residential house at the church property.
- **The “GoFundMe” fundraiser website for MDC has been updated** for the Property Building Project. It is going well. If you're interested in donating please go to our website: www.OurMDC.org and click on the link. **You can also pick up a few business cards at the back table with the QR code to share with family & friends.**
- **Please pick up Connect Cards/Envelopes** in the back for offerings, prayer requests and place it in one of the offering boxes. **Please note**, for pledge card donations, please mark your gift “BF” or “Building Fund.”
- **Please contact us** for any needs, suggestions, or prayer requests:
 - Pastor Larry Quinnell - PastorLarry@OurMDC.org
 - General Info. - Info@OurMDC.org
 - Prayer requests - PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

Adoration: *Peace Be Still*

How Great Thou Art

Message: *Jacob: Heaven Is Open*

Sending Out: *I Surrender*

Your Love Never Fails

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Message Notes:

Friday Devotional: Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.,

Understanding the heritage:

- Abraham receives a promise of descendants, land, and a future blessing for all the world.
- Sarah has her maid have a son with Abraham because she did not wait for God.
- Isaac is a more passive guy. Moves along to get along (conflict avoidance).
- Rebekah is more of a take charge woman, quick decision, quick action, get it done now

Primogeniture **With privileges and benefits come responsibility and duty.**

Quick overview:

- Esau is a hunter. Should be taking care of family business.
- Father Isaac loves Esau and father Isaac loves wild game.
- Jacob is of the tents; likely taking care of family business.
- Rebekah loves Jacob. Is she betting on the winner?
- Jacob cooks some stew (lying in wait?).
- Esau is hungry.
- Jacob negotiates for the birthright.
- Esau despises birthright and trades it for a bowl of lentil stew. Comment by Moses, and validated in the New Testament.
- Esau eats and leaves (as if nothing significant has happened).

Structure of this part of the story:

- A: 26:34-35. Esau takes 2 Hittite wives -> Grief to Isaac, Rebekah.
 - B: 27:1-4 . Isaac calls Esau for the blessing.
 - C: 27:5-17. Rebekah schemes for Jacob.
 - C': 27:18-29. Jacob deceives Isaac.
 - B': 27:30-41. Isaac tells Esau: "I have already blessed Jacob."
- A': 27:42-46. Rebekah alerts & makes marriage plans for Jacob.

Manipulation plan, unintended consequences:

- Isaac tried to thwart God's plan for his own wishes and it all blew up.
- Rebekah has manipulated events and it all blew up.
 - She will never see the son she loves again.
 - She is stuck with the son she did not want.
- Esau now has to manage the family business that he did not want.
- Jacob receives the blessing and the promise.
- Jacob is:
 - Homeless.
 - Penniless. He lost the material benefits that went with the blessing.
 - Without homeland.
 - Estranged from his father.
 - Chased by his brother, who wants to kill him.
 - Unknowing that he will not see his mother alive again.

Principles and Applications:

- God did not choose the deception. God used the deception.
- God works through flawed, broken people. All 4 were at fault.
- All 4 failed to appreciate God's grace, resulting in wasted opportunities.
- God stoops and is not above cleaning up the messes that we make.
- Past failures do not negate the blessing of God.
- Previous sinfulness does not have to lead to hopelessness.
- My failures do not destroy the promises of God for me.
- We must trust God for what we do not see, when all we see is a mess.
- Faith calls us to look forward, not backward.
- Grace can surprise us when we least expect it.
- Scheming and manipulation can cripple a family for generations.
- God will achieve His purposes in spite of dysfunctional families.
- Accepting grace is surrendering resistance.
- Jesus is the ultimate son who was loved so much.
 - On the cross, Jesus was forsaken, and received the curse that we deserve.
 - Jesus dressed up like us.
 - We who believe will someday be dressed up like Jesus.
 - God accepts me as if I did everything Jesus did.
 - God loves me like God loves Jesus.
 - The Holy Spirit bears witness that we who believe are the children of God.
 - When we receive the blessing of God, we can meaningfully bless others.

Genesis 28 Jacob Is Sent Away

28:1 So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. 2 "Arise, go to Paddan-aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and from there take to yourself a wife from the daughters of Laban your mother's brother. 3 "May God Almighty bless you and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may become a company of peoples. 4 "May He also give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and to your descendants with you, that you may possess the land of your sojournings, which God gave to Abraham." 5 Then Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-aram to Laban, son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

6 Now Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Paddan-aram to take to himself a wife from there, and that when he blessed him he charged him, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan," 7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Paddan-aram. 8 So Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan displeased his father Isaac; 9 and Esau went to Ishmael, and married, besides the wives that he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth.

Jacob's Dream

10 Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and lay down in that place. 12 He had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And behold, the

Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 14 "Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on its top. 19 He called the name of that place Bethel; however, previously the name of the city had been Luz. 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will keep me on this journey that I take, and will give me food to eat and garments to wear, 21 and I return to my father's house in safety, then the Lord will be my God. 22 "This stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

Genesis 28 Overview

- Rebekah (smother mother) manipulates a blow up in the family.
- Isaac recognizes the sovereign hand of God and blesses Jacob; that God would bless Jacob:
 - Fruitful and multiply numbers.
 - Become a community of peoples.
 - Give Jacob's descendants the blessing of Abraham
 - Take possession of the land that God gave to Abraham.
- Esau takes a wife, hoping to gain parent's favor. He gets it wrong..., again.
- Jacob stops for the night, has a dream.
 - Sees a stairway from heaven to earth.
 - Angels are on the staircase going both ways.
 - Sees God (Yahweh), the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac.
- God blesses Jacob:
 - Promises the land.
 - Promises descendants (like the dust all over the earth)
 - All peoples will be blessed through him and his offspring.
 - God will watch over Jacob.
 - God will be with Jacob.
 - God will bring Jacob back to his homeland.
- Jacob awakes and realizes he has been visited by God (Yahweh).
- Jacob is afraid.
- Realizes that this is the gate of heaven.
- Calls the place Bethel (House of God)
- Jacob makes a vow. If God keeps His promise, Jacob will:
 - The Lord (Yahweh) will be Jacob's God.
 - The stone will be a pillar, "God's house."
 - Jacob will give a tenth.

John 1:49-51 Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." 50 Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these." 51 And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Principles and Applications:

- Other religion have ways to work upward:
 - Buddhists have the eightfold path.
 - Islam has the 5 pillars.
 - Jews have the 10 commandments.
- The gate of heaven is not a thing. It is a person: Jesus Christ.
- Because of that, the Gate of Heaven is open, available, and everywhere.

Principles and Applications: God transforms:

Rock of hardship and pain.

Pillar of holiness and praise

Place of fear, loneliness, despair.

Place to meet God.

Any old place.

Place that is the foundation of a new life.

Principles and Applications:

- Jesus has promised to never leave us or forsake us. He is with us, even when we do not perceive it.
- God can organize events for our benefit, that may be hidden from our perspective.
- God takes the initiative to draw people (back) to Him. God reaches out - not their merit; His grace.
- Our future with God is always greater than our past.
- Jacob could not outrun his guilt.
 - Everywhere he went, there he was.
 - The presence of God in that place made all the difference.
- Jacob receives promises: Provision, Protection, Accompaniment, Homecoming.
- Jacob received those promises when he was not perfect. That is good news!
- We have received the same promises from Jesus Christ.

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

Prayer Request: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org

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