

# Stones

Week #2: A Sleeping Stone

Jacob - Genesis 27 & 28

1. The tension: God didn't design us to do life **alone**.
  - Genesis 2:18 - *The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."*
  - Genesis 27:42-45 - *42 When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is planning to avenge himself by killing you. 43 Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran. 44 Stay with him for a while until your brother's fury subsides. 45 When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I'll send word for you to come back from there. Why should I lose both of you in one day?"*
  - Ecclesiastics 4:7,8,10 - *Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: 8 There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother. There was no end to his toil...This too is meaningless— a miserable business...pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.*
  
2. The issue: When separated from what we know and we feel alone it's easy to become **anxious**.
  - Genesis 28:10-11 - *Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. 11 When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep.*
  - Psalm 13:1-2 - *How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?*

3. The promise: God is **always** with me...**here**, **there**, and **everywhere**.

- Genesis 28:12-15 - *Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. 12 He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."*
- Genesis 28:16-19 - *16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." 17 He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." 18 Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.*
- Hebrews 13:5,8 - *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." ... Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
- Matthew 18:20 - *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

### **Points to Ponder**

- 1) All of us can relate to Jacob and feeling all alone, even wondering if based on our actions God has left us. While God hasn't given us the same vision he gave Jacob, what similar promises has he made to us personally in those moments? Consider memorizing a passage to "go-to" when those times come!
- 2) Martin Luther said, "Wherever the Word is heard, where Baptism, the Sacrament of the Altar (Communion), and absolution are administered, there you must determine and conclude with certainty, 'This is surely God's house'." (Luther's Works, page 244, in his commentary on Genesis 28). Whether worship is held across the road, in the gym or in a new church, why is this so vital for us to take to hear as we prepare to enter the new building?

***Homework: Exodus 17***