

Life Group Notes

Sunday 09 February 2020

Speaker: Howard Kellett

Series: Jacob's Story

Title: Changing to His Likeness

Passage: Genesis 29 & 30

Howard Kellett continued our discipleship sermon series based on the life of Jacob. Howard outlined how Jacob was formed by his surrounding, and so are we.

The Story: Jacob was supposed to be living under the big story God gave to Abraham and his descendants. Yet Jacob seemed happy to be shaped by his much smaller narrative of his making. He was often trying to grab and lay hold of being blessed by God, rather than see God as the blessing.

The People: Those around Jacob continued to shape him, and not always for the better. His mother coerced him to steal his brother's inheritance and to leave the promised land. Uncle Laban was as crafty as Jacob and they had years of salary disputes. Few were influencing Jacob for kingdom good.

The Experiences: Jacob had experiences that were both unusual and profound, at Bethel for example. Yet these experiences in themselves were not enough to shape and change his character for long good.

The Habits: Jacob had 20 years in exile, two decades of minding sheep and whiling away time. There is little evidence during this period of any spiritual habits or actively worshipping the God of his fathers. So, whilst he left his father-in-law's land with wives, children and livestock, his character was still immature.

Suggested questions:

1. How we talk about our 'setback' and 'breakthroughs' reveal the real story we are living for. What do yours reveal?
2. Are the people around you shaping you to follow Jesus or follow them? Do you experience Gospel community?
3. Experience can be so helpful in growing in Christ. When was the last time you met with God in a tangible way?
4. What spiritual habits are shaping you in the mundane of your life (silence, solitude, prayer, fasting, bible reading, generosity)?