

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Once Jacob returns to Bethel to keep his vow, God appears to remind him who he is and to follow his calling. Jacob remembers and responds in new obedience.

Main Point of Sermon: *Remember and be who you are.*

Move 1: You can forget who you are and miss out on God's blessing.

- Jacob was in the Promised Land for a number of years. But he and his family suffered for not going back to Bethel. The whole debacle in 34. Jacob's living scared.
- God reminds him of his vow, 28:20-22. Once Jacob returns and builds altar, *then* God blesses him.

Move 2: God reminds you today of who you are in Christ so that you enjoy His blessing.

- Vs. 10: God reminds Jacob of his name change (32:28); identity change. No longer one who grabs heals, but prevails in God. But Jacob had been acting like his old self again. First time of name change, God showed He would keep Jacob safe from Esau. This reminder, safe from Canaanites.
- Vs. 11a: God reinforced Jacob's new name by reminding him of another of God's names: The Almighty: "El Shaddai". All sufficient one. Like in Genesis 17 just before he changed Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah.
- *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Move 3: God reminds you today that you belong to His big family in the faith.

Vss. 11b, 12. God essentially says, I told you 30 years ago that I'd give you a family and bring you back into this land to inherit it. See, I have. Goes back to Grandpa Abraham. Get out there and grow.

Move 4: To enjoy God and His people, get back to the same old new you.

Vss. 14-15. Jacob makes a pillar and an offering. Like he did there before. Calls the place, Bethel. Like he had before. Like it was with Abraham. (Gen. 12:8, 13:3). Here is Jacob like he was 30 years before, saying, "This is who I am. This is what I do."

Conclusion:

Remember and be who you are.