



Burying Your Idols

The thread of blessing:

1. God wants to bless us.
2. His blessing is for us and through us.
3. God has to prepare us to receive His blessing.
4. The preparation is always painful, but necessary.
5. The blessing is always worth the pain.

Sermon Notes:

Scripture: Genesis 35:1-14

Two major mistakes when it comes to priorities:

1. _____ is a priority (which means _____ is a priority)
2. The _____ _____ is a priority.

_____ was an example of the first.

_____ was an example of the second.

- His priority was _____.

²⁰ Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear ²¹ so that I return safely to my father’s household, then the LORD will be my God ²² and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.” (Genesis 28:20-22)

Prostitution: _____ someone and paying later.

- Shechem used _____ and promised to pay later.
- Jacob used _____ and promised to pay later.

Jacob’s promise:

- 1) “The Lord will be my _____.”
- 2) “this _____ will be God’s house.”
- 3) “I will give you a _____.”

The difference between how I define blessing and how God defines blessing.

- I want God to bless _____.
- God wants to bless _____.

Do you view yourself as the _____ or the _____?

Questions for Discussion and Application:

1. In the message, Kory said there are two mistakes we make when it comes to priorities. 1) Everything (or nothing) is a priority; and 2) The wrong thing is a priority. Do you agree? Can you think of examples in your life?
2. Which was Esau’s problem? Which was Jacob’s problem? What were the results?
3. How did Jacob “use” God? What are some ways we use God?
4. How do most people (Christians *and* others) tend to define blessing? Is there a difference between how Christians and non-Christians define blessing?
5. What did Kory say is the difference between how God defines the blessing and how we define the blessing? Do you agree?
6. How do blessings become idols? What are some examples of idols? Practically speaking, how do they become idols?
7. In what ways do we think of ourselves as the *destination* rather than the *carrier* of the blessing?
8. John Wesley’s motto when it came to money was, “Make all you can. save all you can. Give all you can.” Do you think this is a healthy attitude toward money? Why or why not?
9. How do we recognize idols in our lives?
10. What are the idols in your life?
11. How do we “bury” our idols? How will you bury yours?