

Intro:

Main Point of Text: Jacob changes his wayward ways to again respond to God's call on his and his family's life.

Sermon Point: *It's never too late to change.*

Move 1: God keeps calling you to change.

Jacob needed to make some major changes in his home:

- Dwelling in Canaan about a decade; slow to go back to Bethel.
- Vss. 1/3b. See Gen. 28:18-22; 31:13. God answered/kept vow, Jacob yet to answer fully.
- Sons didn't keep vows in Gen. 34. Jacob their example: not keeping his vow to God.
- What's been holding him back? Vs. 2: idols! Rachel kept: Gen 31:19, 34. Jacob let spread.

Move 2: You must keep changing.

Jacob finally makes some major changes. Finally acts like a man, a godly man:

- Vs. 2: Speaks to his house. Now acting like Grandpa Abraham: Gen. 18:19.
- Abraham also had returned from sinful escapade in Egypt to Bethel Gen. 13:3,4.
- Commands family to get rid of foreign gods. Earrings: “badges of superstition” (Calvin).
- Jacob answers God's call to take his house to Bethel and worship Him because God had answered his call for help there years before -- and stayed w/ Him when he had *no* family.

Move 3: God will help you change.

God makes this all happen. God always begins the relationship and continues repentance.

- Vs. 1: God speaks. So Jacob speaks to his family.
- Vs. 4a: Family responds! Why all so bad? Jacob. Why all change? Jacob. And God's grace.
- Vs. 5: God protects (no reason to be afraid – Gen. 34:30). Terror just like later on with Israel.
- Jacob's change based on God's call and covenant. Remember, Bethel not only the place of Jacob's vow. *God's* vision and vow.
- Jacob and his family go, get to Bethel, and build altar: Vs. 6-7. Adds to name of “Bethel”: God of God's house. Like “Israel”, Gen. 33:20. God keeps taking him closer to Himself.
- Took about 30 years to get Jacob back to Bethel in repentance/closer to God!

Conclusion:

It's never too late to change.