

#DeathToSelfie

(3) When God Shows Up In The Middle Of Nowhere...

Genesis 35:1-7...

Then God said to Jacob, "Go up to **Bethel** and settle there, and build an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you were fleeing from your brother Esau." 2 So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. 3 Then come, let us go up to **Bethel**, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone." 4 So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. 5 Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them. 6 Jacob and all the people with him came to Luz (that is, **Bethel**) in the land of Canaan. 7 There he built an altar, and he called the place **El Bethel** because it was there that **God revealed himself to him** when he was fleeing from his brother.

WHEN GOD SHOW UP IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE...

It's good that you're not **COMPLACENT**...

BUT...

You've got to learn to also be **CONTENT**... while not becoming **COMPLACENT!**

DESTINATION DRIVEN

Genesis 32:10...

I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. **I had only my staff** when I crossed this Jordan, but now **I have become two camps**.

Genesis 28:10...

Jacob **left** Beersheba and **set out** for Harran.

You will often **SEE GOD**... in the **TRANSITIONAL MOMENTS**... of **YOUR LIFE!**

GOD KNOWS HOW TO MEET YOU... IN THE MIDDLE... OF YOUR NOWHERE!

Genesis 28:11-19...

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. 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... I will bring you back to this land.**

I will not leave you until I have done what I have **promised** you."

"Surely the Lord is in **this place** and I was not aware of it."

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.

YOU HAVE "NAMING RIGHTS" -- WHEN YOU HAVE A "PROMISE" FROM GOD!

THREE THINGS that **BETHEL** represents today...

1. BETHEL... is a place of REMEMBRANCE!

~ REMEMBER ~

The **First Time** Jacob went to **BETHEL...** he was **RUNNING...**

The **Second Time** Jacob goes back to **BETHEL...** he was **LIMPING...**

2. BETHEL... is a place of REVELATION!

Genesis 35:3...

Then come... let us go up to **Bethel**, where I will build an altar to God... who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me **wherever I have gone.**

***The PRESENCE OF GOD... IS NOT A PLACE... IT'S A PERSON...
AND HE'S WITH YOU... WHEREVER... YOU GO!***

God is...

NOW HERE

3. BETHEL... is also a place of RESPONSE!