



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 009: Jacob's Ladder Genesis 28:10-12

Jacob's cheating drove him away from his mother, his father and his brother Esau who still smoldered in murderous anger. God would have had every right to cast him off too, strip away his blessing and lay it back on Esau where his father wanted it in the first place.

- What consequences did Jacob suffer as a result of his cheating?

We all do things like Jacob that shatter our relationships and drive us away from those we love the most.

- When have you experienced Jacob's separation, guilt and shame?
- Have you ever felt that God has cast you off and you have no future? Describe that experience.
- Why is it difficult to hold onto God's grace and forgiveness while we are suffering the consequences of our selfish actions?

Jacob certainly didn't deserve a future, nor do we. We deserve to face God's wrath and suffer in hell eternally. But God's love, mercy and grace are so great that He didn't drive Jacob away- He went with him to his mother's family- even came to meet him along the way in the middle of the night.

In Jacob's dream, God took His promise to Abraham and gave it directly to Jacob. Despite Jacob's cheating, God would make him the father of a great nation, He would remain with Jacob and bless all the families of the earth in him and in his offspring.

God the Father loved you so much He gave His own Son Jesus Christ to suffer and die in your place. The Lord Jesus promised to forgive you and to be with you always, even to the end of the age.

- What comfort does that bring while we are suffering the consequences of our actions?
- When you suffer intense, lingering guilt- made worse by the consequences you suffer- how can the cross of Jesus Christ bring comfort and peace?
- In what ways has God made you a blessing to the people around you?
- How can you become an even greater blessing?