

Jacob & the Gospel # 9

Genesis 31¹⁷⁻⁵⁵

What if God had not been with me?

Lord's day morning: 2 Sept 2007

Preacher: Geoff Findlay

Children's talk: What if ... you were born in Cambodia?

Introduction

What if I was someone else?

1. What if I was an unbeliever like Laban?

He has his gods of divination

He's pursuing his own agenda

He's confronted by the living God

He's associated with the living God

He's blessed by the living God

2. What if I have hidden idols like Rachel?

Woman of genuine faith

What sort of things are we talking about?

Why do I have them?

What if I am found out?

What if I am not found out?

3. What if God is with me like He was with Jacob?

He enables me to serve sacrificially

He enables me to be gracious to my enemies

He never sends me away empty

He sees all my hardship & toil

He is taking me home

Conclusion

What's the difference in the end?



Questions answered



What is divination?

What is God's attitude towards it? Why?

How come Laban found out the truth through his divination?



What was Laban's real agenda?



Why is there a particular blessing in being closely associated with believers even for those who do not believe?

What is this blessing designed to do?



What is meant by the phrase "*there, but for the grace of God, go I*"?



What evidence is there that Rachel was a woman of genuine faith?

In what ways is she a picture of us?



What benefit may Rachel have thought there would be in the household idols?

What are some similar idols that we, as Christians, may keep tucked away in a bottom drawer?



Why are we, as believers, still prone to idolatry?



Are idols of any significance?



Why are idols more dangerous when kept hidden, rather than exposed?



What manifestations of God's presence and grace do we see in Jacob's life in this chapter?



Does God ever send His people away empty?

What does this mean for us?



What is particularly precious about God seeing all our hardship and toil?



What apparent similarities but real differences are there between Laban and Jacob in the closing scene?

What application does this have for us?



Things to pray about



What might you be like now if God had not intervened in your life?



Thank God for all the privileges that come with His abiding presence.