



Bethel means "House of God." Bethel was one of the most sacred places in all the land. Sooner or later every Christian will be led by God to their personal Bethel.



Genesis 35:1, Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."



What is An Altar? An Altar is a place that is designed or separated for worship unto God, a place of fellowship with God.





Genesis 35:2-4, And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments. Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone." So, they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.

Bethel is a Place of Sanctification "Put away your strange gods"



Sanctification simply means separation from ungodly things.



Hebrews 12:1...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Bethel is a Place of Answered Prayer.



Bethel, The Place of Blessing





1. Centering Your Life Requires that You Return to the Place of Past Blessing.



A Trip Back to Bethel To:

- ✓ Remember
 - ✓ Recount
 - ✓ Review
 - ✓ Recall



2. Centering Your Life Requires the Death of Idols.



3. You Can Not Center your Life with A "Both-and" Relationship.



Colossians 3:5-10, Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked when you were living in them.



But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

4. Centering Your Life Requires Getting Rid of What Hinders Growth.



Forms of Idols:

- Idols of Personal Power
 - √ Idols of Pleasure
 - ✓ Idols of Undue Influence
 - ✓ Idols of Superstition



When we move away from God we move away from righteousness (or right living before God) stability, wisdom, peace, contentment; in short, we move away from the things we are longing for.

5. Centering Your Life Requires Honoring God with Your Worship.



Genesis 35:14, Jacob set up a stone pillar at the place where God had talked with him, and he poured out a drink offering on it; he also poured oil on it. Jacob called the place where God talked with him, Bethel.

Protection

Genesis 35:5, Then they set out, and the terror of God fell upon the towns all around them so that no one pursued them.



Bible Study Follow Up Chat Questions:

- 1. What was your greatest takeaway from today's lesson?
- 2. How is an altar represented in your Christian walk?
- 3. Describes some common weights that can weigh us down.
- 4. What are strange gods? Why must we "put them away"
- 5. Name three requirements mentioned in the lesson for centering your life.
- 6. Describe a "Both-and" Relationship.
- 7. Why is worship a key component in centering your life?

