

Life in the Messy Middle Text: Genesis 29:1-30

Jacob experienced a turning point in his life, in which he said, in effect, "He is my God, he is here with me, and on this p_____ I will build my life." Ref: Genesis 28:15

We live today in a pass/fail culture. Either you are part of the in-crowd, which means you're all good, or you've got one flaw which makes you all bad, and that gets you canceled. There's no in-between.

There are three lessons here that will help you understand what was happening with Jacob, and will also help you understand what is happening in your own life, in your own journey with Christ.

1. The past doesn't let go without a f_____.

Some would say that it's ironic that, after engaging in such deception in the past, he would now be the victim of deception himself. But it's not ironic at all. It's how life works. You reap what s____. Ref: Galatians 6:7

When you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, he f_____ you of your sins. He no longer holds your past against you, but there is still some baggage that remains.

You will find that there are times when you're ready to do away with the past, but the past isn't quite ready to do away with you.

It's a fight that you can ultimately win. No matter what your past looks like, no matter what kind of baggage you may have to carry, you can overcome it, and you can create a new life for yourself. But it takes time, and it involves the process of sowing a new kind of harvest for yourself.

Whichever area of your life you're hoping to change — whether it's your m_____, or your financial situation, or your health, or your s_____ life — be prepared to spend some time mired in the messy middle.

2. The greatest obstacle you'll ever have to overcome is the obstacle of y_____.

It can be said of every one of us: You are your own worst enemy.

We have a tendency to sabotage the success that God is ready to bring our way.

God's response would be: Give me first place in your life and seek my guidance and follow my guidelines and let me open up the windows of blessing. Ref: Matthew 6:33

As you work your way through the messy middle, pay close attention to your own behavior.

3. In spite of your limitations, God is ready to bless the best of your e_____.

Spiritual maturity is not a pass/fail situation. The road to discipleship is a process of transformation, one that takes many years.

The more you give God to work with, the more he can bring into your life.

Do you want more of God in your life? Give him more of you.