

## GENESIS 31:13, 19-21    WHAT HAVE WE MISSED?

<sup>13</sup> *I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land. ' "*

<sup>19</sup> *When Laban had gone to shear his sheep, Rachel stole her father's household gods. <sup>20</sup> Moreover, Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him he was running away. <sup>21</sup> So he fled with all he had, and crossing the River, he headed for the hill country of Gilead.*

God has reiterated his promise and told Jacob that it was time to leave. Yet Jacob is unable to muster the faith to rely on God. Instead he turns once again to his old cowardly habit of deception. After a dangerous encounter with Laban in the wilderness and by divine intervention, Jacob appears to get away unscathed. However, Rachel's thievery and Jacob's continued lack of faith are added to their dreadful roll of misdemeanors and felonies. But perhaps Jacob's greatest loss was the opportunity to see God tangibly and undeniably work in his life and that of his family.

What has Jacob missed? He has missed the opportunity to allow his blessed status to be a blessing. We see this in the words of the Lord to Moses in Exodus 34.

<sup>10</sup> *Then the LORD said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you.*

What have we missed? We too through faith have the opportunity to be blessed to be a blessing. As people of faith we are blessed, but do we step back in obedience and allow the full measure of that blessing to be revealed to the world around us? Or do we focus on ourselves, our talents and influence to try to make a difference? By doing the latter we squander the opportunity to witness God's mighty wonders, his awesome works, in our lives. For example, I wonder how many answers to prayers we have missed because we have been too busy trying to rationalize why God did not answer certain prayers according to our human expectations?

**May my faith be strengthened, Lord, that I might depend upon you under all circumstances and not miss the opportunity to see your awesome work in the world around me. I repent of my natural desire to make things happen and to act before I look to you. Create in me the patience and faith to stand back and watch you reveal yourself to the world. Amen.**