



**DGM Message Title: The Next Chapter**

**Theme: The Generosity Series**

**Sermon Date: 5/20/2018**

**Message Summary:** It is important to think about the next chapter in your life. If you want to see God in the next chapter and you want to walk with Him, you must take the right steps in your current chapter. God chose you and has a future planned that is uniquely yours.

**Scripture References (NKJV):**

- Genesis 28:10-14
- Acts 2:17
- John 1:50-51
- Timothy 2:5
- Genesis 28:20
- Genesis 8:22
- Malachi 3:10

**Key Points:**

- Genesis 28:10
  - Referring to Jacob's ladder
  - Jacob just left home for the first time and returning to the hometown where his grandparents Abraham and mother Rebecca lived
  - He was on the run from Esau who threatened to kill him because Jacob stole his birth right
  - His parents were wise enough to send him away to find a wife and get away from his brother
    - If you're on the run, make sure that you are not running from something but towards something
- Genesis 28:11
  - Esau was the outdoors guy
    - He was the epitome of a guy
  - Jacob was a home body/mama's boy
  - He traveled for days to get to his destination and everything he knew was behind him
    - He had to quickly learn to adjust
    - It's not the strongest species that survives, nor the most intelligent, it's the one most adaptable to change. – Charles Darwin
    - Jacob was a survivor

- If you are not all that you want to be, allow God to mold you and shape you and you will be what you need to be in that moment
  - He laid down in a place to sleep
    - When you are in God's will, He will allow you to rest
- Genesis 28:12
  - He had a dream about a ladder.
  - It was set up on the earth, and the top reached heaven
  - Angels were ascending and descending on it
  - God used dreams a lot in the Bible history
    - God use dreams to impact people and it is also in the New Testament
- Acts 2: 17
  - When we get closer to the end, God has a lot of dreams that He will escalate
  - God will always give us dreams and visions
    - The question is not whether or not God still speaks, but do we still listen
- Jacob dreamed about a ladder
  - It was more like a staircase
  - The top reached heaven the bottom touched the earth
  - It was ultimately foreshadowing what it will be like after Jesus came
- John 1:50
  - Jesus said to Nathaniel "because I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe?"
  - Nathaniel was excited to hear from Jesus
  - Jesus said you haven't seen anything yet
    - He said you will see greater things
- John 1:51
  - Jesus used the most solid words
  - The KJV it says "verily, verily"
  - The Arabic is "amen, amen"
  - The NKJV says "Most assuredly"
  - He said that hereafter you will see heaven open
  - Jesus compared himself to the ladder not to Jacob
    - He was talking to everyone not just Jacob
- I Timothy 2:5
  - There is one God and one mediator between God and man
    - We don't need more than one
  - Jesus did not come to create a new religion but to make a way out of no way
    - Because of our sin and rebellion
- Genesis 28:13
  - God is speaking to Jacob for the first time
  - He uses several terms to introduce Himself
    - He said he is the God of Abraham and Isaac
  - Jacob wasn't the greatest guy but he was chosen by God
    - When God choses you, it doesn't matter who rejects you
  - God said the land that Jacob lies on, He will give to him and his decedents
    - The Lord gives him the Abraham promise
    - God most likely chose Jacob over Esau because it is not about the strongest being, but if God choses you no one can take it from you
- Genesis 28:14

- He will spread his seed abroad and bless the earth
- All the families of the earth shall be blessed
- God said the greatest thing
  - He said behold I am with you
    - Peace is not the absence of problems, it is the presence of God
      - When God is with you, it doesn't matter who's against you
- God said He will keep him wherever Jacob went
  - God is always working His plan
    - He keeps us when we are in low points in our lives
    - The will of God will never take you where the grace of God can't keep you
- The reason why there was surprise in his tone was because people believed in multiple gods
  - People thought there were different gods based on geography
  - There was a concept that if you left a certain area, you were not covered by God
    - The God that we serve is not a sometimes or someplace God
    - God can show up anywhere, God is not limited
      - We are the temple of the Holy Ghost and where we are He is
      - He is the God of everything
- Jacob woke up and said surely the Lord is in this place and he didn't know it
  - Sometimes we are in a hard place and He shows up
- If you know God, it's not uncommon to be a little intimidated
  - God knows everything
- Because of God's presence, a hard and difficult place becomes awesome
  - It's not your circumstances that make your life awesome, it's God's presence
  - God's presence is consistent especially in church/worship
- Genesis 28:20
  - Jacob said "if God will be with me like He said..."
  - If God will keep him and give him food
  - Then the Lord shall be Jacob's God
    - Jacob held God to His Word
    - God wants to put something in you where you start holding Him to His
    - We have to stand on God's Word
    - When Jacob held God to His Word, God was not upset
      - That is what God is looking for
- Genesis 8:22
  - The pillar will be God's house and all that You give to me, I will give a tenth to You.
    - 10% is what you gave your king
    - Every time you give 10% to the kingdom, you are saluting Him as king
  - God was so willing to reach Jacob that he was willing to give Him guarantee on his tithe
    - We made it a church and people thing. We forget it is a God thing
    - Our giving is between us and God
- Malachi 3:10
  - Bring the full tithe into the house of God
  - If just half of us would take up this challenge, we wouldn't have to talk to the bank
  - God said but Him to the test
    - This is the only place in all the Bible where God said you can test Him
    - God said if you honor him like a king, He will be your king

- You have to honor him as your sovereign and king
  - God said test Him and He will open the heaven
  - There are many ways that he wants to bless us
  - He will drive out some bad things in your life
- Genesis 30:43
  - Jacob made a pledge to God
  - Jacob became very prosperous
  - If you want the next chapter in your life with God, you need to take the right steps in this chapter
    - The comfort zone in our personal lives is easy and convenient, but nothing ever grows there
    - The biggest risk is you not taking the risk
    - God said if you trust him by faith, He will show Himself strong
    - The just live by faith
    - God made a commitment to us so we need to make a commitment to Him
    - Taste and see that the Lord is Good
    - Take a leap of faith
    - Trust and believe and see what God will do