

Genesis 28:16

by Chuck Smith

The sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing God's presence in our lives, even in unexpected places, and highlights the reasons why people may struggle to feel God's presence.

Scripture: Genesis 28:16, Psalm 139:7, Matthew 11:28, John 1:51, Romans 1:28

Topics: "God's Presence", "Spiritual Awareness"

Description

Chuck Smith emphasizes the omnipresence of God, illustrating how Jacob, in a moment of desperation and loneliness, encountered God's presence at Bethel. Despite being in a barren place, Jacob's dream revealed a ladder connecting heaven and earth, symbolizing Jesus as the way to God. Smith points out that many people fail to recognize God's presence due to busy lives, sinful lifestyles, and spiritual apathy. He encourages believers to be aware of God's constant presence, even in the most unlikely circumstances.

Transcript

"THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD"

Intro: The omni-presence of God is a part of Christian theology. Though we believe it, we so often fail to recognize it.

I. "SURELY THE LORD IS IN THIS PLACE."

A. Jacob was fleeing for his life.

1. His brother threatened to kill him.

2. Jacob had disguised himself and received his brother's patriarchal blessing.

3. Running for his life he arrived tired, lonely and weary at Bethel.

B. Bethel is a rocky barren area.

1. Nothing there to suggest presence of God.

2. It is interesting how in the lonely nights in a barren time, we so often become aware of God.

C. The consciousness came through a dream.

1. We have all the ingredients for dreaming; a guilty conscience, a hard journey, an uncomfortable bed.

2. A ladder set on the earth reaching heaven. Angels ascending and descending. The Lord stood above it and spoke to Jacob words of promise.

D. We think of God as being in heaven.

1. As Jacob laid down to sleep he could see the thousands of stars.

a. He probably was thinking somewhere up there exists a great God. If I could only somehow reach Him.

b. "God who at different times and various places spoke to our fathers."

1. God spoke through the dream of a ladder reaching to heaven.

c. When the Son of God came to give us a clear revelation, Philip heard Him.

1. He brought Nathaniel to Jesus.

2. Jesus said, "O henceforth you will see the heavens opened..." Jesus is the ladder by which men can reach God.

E. His awakening consciousness was "truly the Lord is in this place."

1. Not just in heaven, He is here.

2. We discover God in the most unlikely places.

a. Not just in the sanctuary.

b. Uncrowded freeway.

3. Not was in this place, but is.

II. "I KNEW IT NOT" WHAT KEEPS US FROM THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF GOD?

A. Busy schedules. "The cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, the desire of things."

1. So many have just crowded God out of their lives.
2. They have no. time for God. How foolish.
 - a. You will have plenty of time later, but if you do not establish a relationship now, you will have no opportunity then.

B. Evil lifestyles. Romans 1.

1. "They did not want to retain God in their conscience so God gave them over to reprobate minds.
2. Some of your lifestyles are so corrupt, you do not want to think of God.

C. Spiritual apathy.

1. There is a part of you that is totally undeveloped.
 - a. People are so concerned for physical and emotional development.
 - b. Spiritually, they are worse off than the 97 pound weakling
They rank somewhere below the moron.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/chuck-smith/genesis-2816/>

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