Genesis Chapter 35 Verses 11 – 15

* (I’m after the *also*) I really like this interaction because **Jacob already knew these things**…this is the blessing that he received earlier from his father and from God…I like this because ***he doesn’t need anything new…he just needs to be reminded of what already was***….and really, he just needs to get back to the simplicity of Bethel…being at home with God.
* This is so true of me. How about you? I sometimes feels as if I am a kite (and I know this is dumb but this is really how I feel) and I’m *learning and growing and seeing and reaching* new heights and all the while I’m calling out to God, *“Ok, I’m ready for a little more string!!*” *“More string, more string!” “This is great, I can see so far!”* But then the things I see start becoming more important to me then ***why*** I see them…, *“Pull in the string…”* I’ve gotten far from God…I have found this to be cyclical in my walk with God…perhaps this is just me…
* And just like Jacob, so very often…I don’t need a shiny new truth from God…***In fact, that may be the LAST thing I need***…I just need to be reminded that *He loves me, He is for me*, **He gave His life in my place, to pay for my sin…**I am important and significant to Him and He has placed eternal value upon me not because of my righteousness but because of His love…And oh by the way, ***He is God Almighty, All Powerful and All victorious***…I have to return to that foundational truth so often because if I’m honest, it’s not a sunny warm day…*that’s not the flight path,* its cold, stormy and often dark…and I lose sight of God so quickly…

Genesis Chapter 35 Verses 16 – 20

* Notice this, **no contention between Leah and Rachel over this son**…why? I like what Guzik suggests…they’re in the promised land now…and when you get there, ***a little older, a little more grown, things like competition and drama just aren’t important as before.*** Rachel has this last son, the twelfth son of Israel and as she labors in childbirth, she loses her life…And her desire is to name the son Ben-Oni which means, *“Son of my sorrow,”* but Jacob, out of love for his bride names him, *“Son of my right hand.”* And Rachel dies…it’s a sweet scene.
* It’s interesting that it’s ***now*** that Jacob has come into full obedience to God…he is right where God told him to be so long ago…***and yet he faces great hardship.*** I just want you to know, just because you are right with God and walking in His *presence and path* for your life, that doesn’t mean that you will have ***health, wealth and prosperity.*** You will face constant challenge. It’s just the way it is because we walk as lights in a dark and fallen world…***stay the course, finish strong.***
* And I love what Pastor Sam Park says…it’s not *finish strong* as in ***die faithfully***, its finish strong moment to moment…its ***finish strong right now***, finish strong today…trust in the Lord through the constant challenges and trials…you aren’t out of the will of God…you’re right where He has led you to be…
* Careful that we, and this is perhaps easier for our generation than any other generation before us…***careful that we do not seek comfort more than we seek God.*** I want a comfortable life, I want a comfortable ministry, a comfortable marriage, a comfortable job…my flesh puts nothing higher than that…the pursuit of happiness…***but my flesh doesn’t lead.*** My spirit cries out for God…and more than I want a comfortable life, ***I want a godly life…***

Genesis Chapter 35 Verses 21 – 22

* Israel *“heard”* about it…no mention of **action** taken…***that’s quite sad***…because if the father won’t take action, God will. Because of this most offensive sin, Reuben the first born will lose his birthright…you find that in Genesis 49 and 1 Chronicles 5. Here’s the thing and the call to action for us parents…if we don’t do something, God will…oh not *punishment or condemnation*…simply this. **God WILL perform His Word.** You can count on that like the first and 15th! Take it right to the bank…!
* *Behold I set before you blessings and cursing’s, life and death, so choose life that you may have it!* (Deut 30:11 and 15-19) *Sow to the wind, reap the whirlwind! The stalk has no bud and it shall never produce meal. And whatever it does produce is stolen away.* (Hosea 8:7) God is faithful to His Word! His Word is truth! And so it is our job to not only hear but take ***swift, immediate and consistent*** action to guide them to the path of life, the life of the spirit…drives me crazy that Jacob only but *heard*…how so many only but hear…and man that includes your own voice…telling them that its wrong is not enough, nagging them and barking at them, **ineffective!** *Actions speak eternally louder than words…*

Genesis Chapter 35 Verses 22 - 29

* It’s amazing to me how **fallible** this family is…the sons of Jacob, Jacob himself, Esau and Jacob together…it’s a mess and yet from this family will come great fruit and a company of nations…You know what, I’m entirely fallible as well, **I am fall**…and yet because of God’s grace, because of His love, because of His sovereign call…through me and through you He can bring much fruit…
* There will be difficulty…***the son of the right hand is the many times the same as the son of sorrow***…here they are in the promised land…walking in full obedience to God and there have been two losses, two deaths in 10 verses…***but where loss abounds, grace abounds much more***…where sorrow will last through the darkness, morning is coming and there will be joy…God will bring much fruit through you no matter where you are at or what you’ve been through or what you’re going through…a great company of nations, kings…if today, now, this minute and the next, you will choose a godly life over a comfortable life…
* You will choose to trust God over yourself…to take action on what you know to be true and right…to align your action with God’s Word and remember Bethel…the simple things…