

# The InnerCHANGE

Online Edition for the Cross Point Community



Title: If

Date: 6.13.10

Series: Forefathers

Text: Gen 27:41-28:22

Synopsis: Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu said, “The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” Jacob’s journey begins with a five hundred mile trip to Haran the country of his mother Rebekah. After Rebekah learns of Esau’s murderous threats towards Jacob, she instructs Jacob to flee to Haran until his brother’s anger subsides. Jacob begins the difficult journey with what appears to no provision or even an animal to ride upon. Seventy miles into the journey he stops at Bethel (at the time known as Luz). There he sees an incredible vision of a stairway stretching from heaven to earth with angels going up and down the stairway. In the dream God appears to him and reiterates the promises he made to Jacob’s grandfather Abraham, that through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Jacob is overwhelmed by God’s presence and promises to devote his life to him.

But he does so tentatively. He says *if* God will be with me and *if* God will take care of me I will devote my life to him. You see Jacob is still a spiritual child. There is much that Jacob has to learn and even more in him that has to change. His faith is shallow, weak and tentative.

But God is in the people business and he is determined to make Jacob a man of faith and prayer. It takes God twenty years of hard labor, poor treatment, and marital bedlam to get Jacob to quit trusting in his own strength, which was considerable, and to learn to trust God. But Jacob does learn and God turns his feckless faith into the kind of faith that moves the hand of God. Twenty-one years later, the same man that said *if* wrestles with God and prevails.

We all start with *if* faith. But God takes that tiny bit of faith and turns into something great. Not for our glory or for our benefit, but for his glory and his Kingdom. Are you ready to begin your journey?