



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Sacramental Living: God is in this Place**

**Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor**

**Scripture: Genesis 28: 10-17**

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

*Genesis 28:10-17*

#### **Sermon Outline:**

- Jacob's name means trickster, and he lives his life deceiving and tricking people. Jacob stole his brother's blessing, and because of this he runs into the wilderness. It is here in the wilderness where God speaks to Jacob. Jacob finds God here while not even knowing He is there.
- God wants to meet us everywhere, even in the mundane and ordinary events of our lives. God can be found in the next person you see or not at all.
- Sacramental Vision is a way of seeing all of life as holy and sacred places to encounter God. 39 of the 40 miracles spoken of in Acts happen outside of the church. Seeing God is not about seeing it in our internal lives but in the external world.

#### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Pastor Rich Villodas continues his series on sacramental living and the ways that we miss God in ordinary moments in our lives.

#### **Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, did your family look for signs of things and meaning in nature, dreams and everyday life, or were they more skeptical? How does this shape your view of things today?
3. How in your everyday life do you see God or find signs of Him?
4. Have you been in a place where you didn't expect to meet God or see His presence?
5. Do you feel that God can reveal himself in the same ways today as he spoke to people and revealed himself to people in the Bible?
6. During the upcoming week, how can you find God in a person you find difficult to deal with?