



溪邊的樹

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神的家

(黃漢先弟兄特會信息摘要)

讀經：創世記 28：10-22，約翰福音 1：45-51

上面的二段聖經都提到天開了，創世記講到一個梯子，而約翰福音則講到人子，都看到神的使者上去下來。弟兄就藉著這二段經文向我們傳講「神的家」，就是這次特會的主題。

伯特利 - 神的家

首先，弟兄說到雅各的故事，以撒和利百加是他的父母，雅各是雙胞胎中的老二，他出生的時候緊抓著哥哥以掃的腳跟，因此父母給他起名叫雅各(抓的意思)，所以我們看到雅各在沒出生前就開始抓。但有一件事雅各不知道，在他沒出生前，神已經告訴利百加將來大的要服事小的，神的的心意早已定規。就我們自己來說，在世上也是不停的抓，我們得到什麼？得不到什麼？神早已經都為我們安排好了；但當我們還是去抓的時候，因著自我為中心的生活，就遇見許多難處；如果我們相信神的安排是最好的，把自己交給主，我們就不再抓了，那生活將是釋放的，要達到這個地步需要常常住在主裏面。

下面我們看到，雖然雅各因著他自己的抉擇，帶進困苦流離的生活，但最後神還是把雅各帶回祂的應許中。雅各用一碗紅豆湯騙取了他哥哥長子的名份與他父親的祝福，為此以掃怨恨雅各，並想殺他；雅各為了逃避他哥哥的追殺就逃往他舅舅拉班的家裏。雅各出了別是巴，向哈蘭走去；在逃亡的途中他停留在路斯，因為太累就枕在一塊石頭睡著了，他夢見一個梯子立在地上，梯子的頭頂著天，有神的使者在梯子上，上去下來。他睡醒後非常懼怕，因為他說：耶和華在這裡，我竟不知道！但是他知道這地方是神的殿、天的門；於是他把所枕的石頭立作柱子，澆油在上面，作為記念，並給那地方起名叫伯特利(神的家)。起名叫伯特利不是人可以想得出來的，必是神給他的異象。神後來也叫這地為伯特利，並稱自己是伯特利的神；這地得了神的印記，是神所記念。當神向人啓示，人有了行動，因這行動符合神的心意，而得到神的認可。這時，神把祂的心意向雅各顯明，這心意就是伯特利、就是神的家，這表示神也需要一個家。

神的心意

神的心意向雅各打開，神把與人同住的心意向他講明，這與人同住的心意從聖經的開頭——創世記已經非常明顯。在伊甸園中有生命樹和分別善惡樹，神說：園中各樣樹上的果子，你可以隨意吃，只是分別善惡樹上的果子，你不可吃，因為你吃的日子必定死！但當蛇對女人

說：你們吃的日子不一定死；夏娃竟信了牠，自己吃了也給亞當吃了那果子；所以神願意與人同住的心意就被打岔了。如果人選擇生命樹，吃生命樹上的果子就有了神的生命，就能永遠與神同住，神的心意就得以成全。很可惜我們的祖宗沒有聽神的話，他們墮落了！但神的心意卻沒有停止，祂開始了恢復的工作。以色列人從埃及被拯救出來以後，神吩咐摩西為祂建造會幕；神如此說：你當為我建造聖所，使我可以住在他們中間；神並曉諭摩西說：當照著在山上指示你的樣式建造，這裏神告訴他們，神的事不能憑人的意思，完全要照神的吩咐。在大衛作王的時候，神感動他起意為神建造聖殿，樣式是神親手畫的；按著神的心意大衛的兒子所羅門就把殿建成；會幕和聖殿都代表神要與人同住的心意。但這些都是外面的東西，以賽亞書 66：1「耶和華如此說：天是我的座位；地是我的腳凳。你們要為我造何等的殿宇？哪裡是我安息的地方呢？」這裡神向我們說話，雖然會幕有了、聖殿造了，但神仍找不到安息的地方。後來在以西結書中看到，因為以色列人在聖殿中拜偶像，到了一個不可收拾的地步，神的榮耀離開了聖殿—這是第一個聖殿。主耶穌來到地上開始傳道的時候祂曾潔淨聖殿—這是第二個聖殿，因為他們把神的殿成了賊窩；所以神在這裏有一句嘆息—哪裡是我安息的地方呢？以賽亞書 66：2 是這麼說的「耶和華說：這一切都是我手所造的，所以就都有了。但我所看顧的，就是虛心痛悔、因我話而戰兢的人。」神的心意在這裏向我們解開了，祂所要得著的不是殿宇，乃是要得著一班人，得著一個屬靈的團體。

神的家的實際

這一個屬靈的團體向我們表明出「神的家」的實際。弟兄提到約翰福音第一章中的一些經節：「太初有道，道與神同在，道就是神。」，「道成了肉身，住在我們中間。」這裏的“住”原文的意思是“支搭帳幕”。原來神成為人、道成了肉身是為了在我們中間支搭一個帳篷，住在我們當中。提摩太前書也告訴我們，永生神的教會就是神的家，教會是被神呼召出來蒙祂恩典被拯救的人。藉著新約的話，神再次告訴我們祂不是要得著一個殿宇，而是要得著一班人，神的家的實際就顯明在教會中。而且主耶穌要親自建造祂的教會，主耶穌曾問門徒：「你們說我是誰？」彼得回答說：「你是基督，是永生神的兒子。」耶穌對他說：「西門巴約拿，你是有福的！因為這不是屬血肉的指示你的，乃是我在天上的父指示的。我還告訴你，你是彼得，我要把我的教會建造在這磐石上」。所以神的心意是要得著一個教會成為祂的家，這教會也是祂親手建造的。彼得前書第二章這麼說：「你們來到主面前，也就像活石，被建造成為靈宮。」既然教會是一班蒙召的人，教會是神的家，這靈宮是活石建造的，神的心意是要把我們每一個人造成活石。

真正的教會

一個真正的教會是神顯明的地方，如果來到一個聚會，從進去到離開沒有講到神的事，我們可以確定這不是教會。在教會中神的同在是明顯的，清心的人一定可以遇見主。在教會裡面神有祂當有的地位。聖經告訴我們：基督是教會的頭、基督是教會的元首，祂有絕對的權柄。弟兄講到，神的使者在人子身上，上去下來，所以基督是一個範圍，沒有基督的交通就不能被稱為交通，基督以外的交通也不算數，在聚會中要專心得以遇見我們的主。弟兄說：教會就是基督，頭和身體是不分開的；如果教會就是基督，人看見教會就一定看見基督；如果有一班人聚集在一起而不見基督，這不是教會。真正的教會神才會祝福，祂的見證會往東西南北擴展；我們這些為神作見證的，能把我們的見證帶到東西南北四方，最後讓神的榮耀充滿全地。神的祝福在教會當中，我們應當有回應，有一個奉獻的心是理所當然的；不單單

是金錢的奉獻，金錢的奉獻只是一個開始，金錢的奉獻只是一個基本的學習，神所要的是全人的奉獻。我們是為主而活。如果這些實際能在教會中看見，神就心滿意足。

神的工作

當神要在人的中間得到一個家的時候，祂必需在人的身上進行祂的工作；雅各本來住在家裡非常幸福，有媽媽的愛，照顧他各樣的需要；但神使他成爲一個無家可歸的人，讓他體會到神需要一個家的心意，神何等需要一個安息的地方。藉著雅各的故事，我們也明白神需要一個家。神也讓他知道神是他的神，在我們經歷神的過程中，開始時神是別人的神，起初雅各稱神爲亞伯拉罕的神、以撒的神，但是神將自己的心向他打開，帶他進入神的異象，看見神是他的神。神又讓雅各在舅舅拉班家裡，經歷了拉班的剝奪、對付、磨練。雅各是一個詭詐用手段的人，神就用詭詐的拉班來破碎他，雅各似乎更勝一籌，二十年的時間他娶了利亞、娶了拉結、拉班的牛羊成了他的牛羊；他住在拉班家裡的這段時間，神藉著各樣的環境讓雅各看見不能靠自己；事實上，當雅各離開拉班的時候還沒完全被對付，他在回本族本家的路上遇見了神的天使，他與神摔跤，神摸了一下他的大腿窩，雅各的腿就癱了，他一生都要靠著拐杖才能行走，這是神的管教；神仍繼續在他身上工作，祂用約瑟把雅各帶到零點，被哥哥出賣的約瑟是他最愛的兒子，在雅各的心中約瑟死了。因著飢荒去到埃及，雅各對法老說：「我寄居在世的年日是一百三十歲，我平生的年日又少又苦，不及我列祖在世寄居的年日。」從外表來看，此時雅各什麼都沒有了，但是他裏面卻是非常清楚神的心意，大的要侍候小的，當約瑟領著二個孩子到雅各面前，要他祝福的時候，雅各心中是雪亮的，按著神的意思把右手按在以法蓮(約瑟的次子)的頭上並爲他祝福。此時雅各完全被神破碎了，他裏面完全被神改變；在雅各臨死以前，他扶著杖頭敬拜神；神把他的名字改成以色列(神的王子)，得到了神完全的祝福。這就是神家裏的人應有的光景。

弟兄也告訴我們，雅各所見的不單是一個夢，如果真是一個夢，夢醒後一場空；如果這是來自神的異象，神會把他夢中所看見的帶入實際中；神要改變雅各，把他塑造成一個真正屬神家裏面的人該有的生命，這就是弟兄所分享的。

勸勉的話

有一點我們必須知道，我們都是雅各，看到雅各，就看到我們自己，滿了詭詐、善於用手段行事；理所當然的，我們需要接受神的對付；當我們的肉體和己很活躍的時候，神家的建造就被耽延了；所以主耶穌說：若有人要跟從我、就當捨己、天天背起自己的十字架來跟從我，我們的肉體和自己必須接受對付。我們要像雅各一樣看見神是我們的神，如此神才能作工在我們身上。當你看見在我們裏面的神比萬有都大，我們就會剛強壯膽，什麼也不怕了。我們也必須看見基督是在教會作元首，基督的權柄是最高的；就如年初所分享的，我們要能持守最基本的，就是外面牌子所寫「耶穌是主」。我們也應該追求作神家裏的人的實際，我們要常常自問：我們的聚會和交通是在基督的範圍裏嗎？我們爲了神的緣故，把神的見證傳到四方了嗎？我們學會了奉獻的功課沒有？願我們能像雅各一樣，經歷神的破碎，成爲一個被神倒空的人，完全彰顯出神的自己，神就可以得到一個安息的家。今天神仍向我們說話，哪裏是我安息的地方？祂仍在尋覓祂可安息之地。神正耐心的等待祂的教會長大成熟；當基督的新婦預備整齊，基督再來的時候，就如啓示錄中所說的：看哪！神的帳幕在人間，祂要與人同住的心意就完成了。

The House of God

(An excerpt of special messages by Brother Daniel Wong)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 28: 10-22, John 1: 45-51

Both Bible passages above mentioned the opening of the heaven. In Genesis, it mentions the angels of God ascending and descending upon a ladder, whereas in John, they were upon the Son of Man. Brother Wong used these two passages to talk about the main theme of this special meeting – “The House of God”.

Bethel – the House of God

Our brother started with the story of Jacob. Isaac and Rebekah were his parents, and he was the younger of the twins. His parents named him Jacob (meaning: to grasp) because he was born holding on to the heel of his brother Esau. We can see that even before Jacob was born, he has begun grasping. What Jacob did not know was that the Lord had foretold Rebekah that the older would serve the younger. The Will of God has already been set. As for us, we may be constantly grasping in this world, but what have we gained? Nothing! God has already planned everything for us. If we continue to grasp and live a self-centered life, difficulties will arise. However, if we trust that God’s plan is the best and commit ourselves to Him, we will stop grasping and be set free. The key of achieving this is to always abide in the Lord.

Although the decisions of Jacob resulted in a vagrant life, we can see how God brought him back into His promise. With a bowl of lentil stew, Jacob tricked his brother Esau into selling to him his birthright and the blessings from his father. Therefore Esau hated Jacob and wanted to kill him. Jacob then left Beersheba to escape his brother’s pursuit and went toward his uncle Laban’s house in Haran. He was tired and stopped at Luz where he laid his head on a stone and slept. He dreamed of a ladder which was set up on the earth with its top reaching heaven. The angels of God were ascending and descending on it. He awoke and was terrified and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” He knew that the place was the House of God, the gate of heaven. So he set up the stone that he had laid on as a pillar and poured oil on it as a commemoration, and named that place Bethel, which means “The House of God”. The idea of naming this place Bethel could not be from man; it must be a vision from God. God later on also referred to this place as Bethel, and called Himself the God of Bethel. This place has received the seal of approval from God for it is a place remembered by God. When God reveals to man and man acts accordingly, the action is approved by God because it is in God’s Will. At that moment, God showed Jacob His Will, which is about the House of God, Bethel. That means God also needs a home.

God’s Will

God showed Jacob that His Will is to dwell with man. This is clearly understood from the beginning of the Bible. In Genesis, there were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden. God said, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” But when the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die”, Eve believed it and ate of the fruit and also gave it to Adam to eat. Thus, God’s Will to dwell with man was interrupted. If man had chosen and ate of the fruit of the tree of life and received God’s life, man could have lived with God forever and God’s Will would be fulfilled. Sadly, our forefathers did not heed God’s Word, they fell! However God’s Will did not stop there, and He began the work of revival. After the Israelites were rescued from Egypt, God asked Moses to build a tabernacle for Him. God said, “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them ... according to the pattern that I have shown you on the mountain.” God told them His work must be done according to His

instructions and not according to man's will. When David was king, God inspired him to build a temple according to the blueprint drawn by God Himself. David's son Solomon finished the building of the temple according to the will of God. Both the tabernacle and the temple represent God's Will to dwell with man. But these are just external things. Isaiah 66:1 tells us, "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?" From these we know that although the tabernacle and the temple were built, God still could not find a place to rest. Then in the Book of Ezekiel we see that the Israelites worshipped idols in the temple to an extent that was irremediable, and the glory of the Lord left the temple. That was the first temple. The Lord Jesus cleansed the temple, the second temple, when He began His ministry on earth, because they have turned the temple of God into a den of thieves. God here sigh: "Where is the place of My rest?" Isaiah 66:2 says, "'For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,' says the Lord, 'but on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.'" God's Will is revealed to us here. He does not desire courts and houses, but a group of people, a spiritual corporation.

The Reality of the House of God

This spiritual corporation displays the reality of the House of God. Our brother took us to John chapter one: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God", "and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". The original meaning of the word "dwelt" is "set up a tabernacle". God became man, the Word became flesh, to set up a tabernacle among us, to dwell amidst of us. 1 Timothy also tells us that the House of God is the Church of the living God. The Church is the people saved by God's grace and has been called by Him. Through the New Testament, God tells us again He does not desire a house, but a people. The reality of the House of God is manifested in the Church. Moreover, the Lord Jesus is the One building His church. He once asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church". God's Will is to have the Church to be His House, the Church built by His own hands. 1 Peter tells us, "Coming to Him..., you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house..." Since the Church is a people called by God, and she is the House of God, and this spiritual house is built up by living stones, we can see that God's Will is to transform us all into living stones.

The Real Church

A real church is a place where God is manifested. If you come to a meeting, and God is never mentioned from the beginning to end, you can be sure this is not a church. God's presence is obvious in a church and those who are pure in spirit will certainly encounter Him. God has His status in the church. The Bible tells us that Christ is the head of the church, Christ has preeminence in her, and He has the absolute authority. The angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man also denotes that Christ is the boundary. A fellowship without Christ or outside of Christ is not considered a fellowship. We must stay focus when we meet so that we may encounter our Lord. Our Brother remarked that the Church is Christ Himself since the Head and Body are inseparable. If the Church is the Body of Christ, Christ can be seen wherever the Church is. If Christ is not seen in a certain congregation, it is not a church. Only the real Church will be blessed by God, and the testimonies will be shared to people in the west, the east, the north and the south. As witnesses of God, we can take our testimonies to all directions so God's glory may fill all land. The only reasonable response to God's blessings in the church is to have a heart of consecration. God desires offering of our entire being, not just a fundamental lesson of money offering. We are to live for Christ. God will be pleased when these realities can be manifested in the Church.

The Work of God

Work must be done on man if God desires a house amidst of man. Jacob had a happy life at home with his loving mother tending to his every need. But God caused him to be homeless, so he could be aware of God's need of a house, a place of rest. We can also recognize this need by reading Jacob's story. On the other hand, God also want Jacob to know that He was his personal God. In the beginning, Jacob understood God as the God of Abraham and Isaac, much similar to our own experience when we see God as someone else's God. However, God opened up His heart to him and brought him into the vision that God was his God. God also allowed Jacob to experience deprivation and hardships at his uncle Laban's house. Jacob was a deceitful and tricky man, and God used the deceitful Laban to break him down. Jacob seemed superior in his craftiness: in the twenty years when he was in Laban's house, he married Leah and Rachel, and Laban's flocks became his. However, through different circumstances, God showed Jacob he could not trust in himself. In fact, he was not entirely dealt with when he left Laban. On his way back to the land of his fathers, Jacob met the angel of God. He wrestled with God, and the socket of his hip was touched and he became lame. He had to rely on a staff to walk for the rest of his life. That was God's discipline on him. But God did not stop His work there. He brought Jacob down to nothing through his most loved son Joseph, who was betrayed by his brothers and was thought to be dead. Jacob went to Egypt because of the famine and he said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage." It seems like Jacob had nothing at this time, but yet he clearly knew God's Will: the older shall serve the younger. When Joseph brought his two sons before Jacob for his blessings, he was crystal clear inside. He acted according to God's Will and put his right hand on Ephraim's head and blessed him. At this moment, Jacob was completely broken. His inside had been totally changed by God. Before he died, he leaned on the top of his staff and worshipped God. Then God changed his name to Israel (the prince of God). He received a complete blessing from God. This is the condition that a member of the Household of God should be in.

What Jacob saw was not just a dream. If it were, it would vanish when he awoke. But if this was a vision from God, He would make it a reality. God changed Jacob, and molded his life to be one that possess by a true member of the House of God.

A Word of Encouragement

We must all realize that we are like Jacob. When we see Jacob, we see ourselves, full of deceit and master with tricks. Realistically, we all need to be dealt with by God. When our flesh and our selves are active, the building of the House of God will be delayed. Therefore the Lord Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Our flesh and our selves must be dealt with. We must be like Jacob and know that God is our God so that He can work on us. When we see that the God in us is greater than everything, we will be bold and courageous, and be fearful of nothing. We must also see that Christ has preeminence in the church. Christ has the highest authority. As was shared at the beginning of the year, we must hold fast to the fundamental, which is what is displayed on the sign outside: "Jesus is Lord". We also should pursue the reality of being the Household of God and ask ourselves often, "Is Christ the boundary for our meetings and fellowship? Have we shared the testimony of God in all directions for the sake of God? Have we learned the lesson of consecration?" May we all be like Jacob who experienced brokenness by God and become an empty vessel to completely manifest God Himself. Then God can have a place for rest. Today God is still speaking to us, "Where is the place of My rest?" He is still seeking His place of rest. He is patiently waiting for His church to become mature. When the Bride of Christ is adorned and ready at the return of Christ, as written in Revelation, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men", God's Will to dwell with man can be fulfilled.