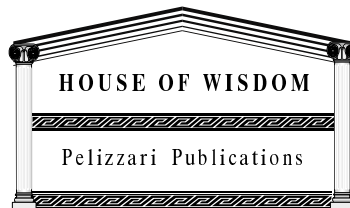


SERMON NOTES SERIES

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY NOTES

**HOW TO TURN A
STAFF INTO STUFF**



**DR. JOHN PELIZZARI, PH.D.
SENIOR PASTOR**

Hi,

Over the years I have had numerous people ask me for a copy of my sermon notes for their own personal Bible studies. I am glad to be able to present them to you. You have in your hands an exact copy of my sermon notes for your very own personal studies. I pray that as you study the Word, that the Holy Spirit will add even more than what you have before you. Put yourself there in what you are studying. What were they feeling, what were they facing...make the Word come alive by placing yourself there.

I am also including a list of the resources that I use to obtain my information, but I will say this, without the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you under the anointing all you have is just a bunch of books. I always pray before, during, and upon deliverance of each message I receive. I pray that...***you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (Colossians 1:9)***. I am both honored and blessed that you have selected a Sermon Notes Series and I pray that it will be a blessing to you!

With Much Love,
Pastor John

RESOURCES USED

- * The Companion Bible
- * Dake's Annotated Reference Bible
- * Young's Analytical Concordance To The Bible
- * A Dictionary Of Bible Types
- * Vine's Expository Dictionary Of New Testament Words
- * The American College Dictionary
- * World's Bible Handbook
- * The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary
- * Nelson's Three- in- One Bible Reference Companion
- * The Word -The Bible In 26 Translations
- * God's Plan For Man
- * Harper's Encyclopedia Of Bible Life
- * Nelson's Expository Dictionary Of The Old Testament
- * Manners And Customs From the Bible
- * What The Bible Is All About
- * Halley's Bible Handbook

These are just a small listing of the study aides that I use. The greatest study aide available is letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher. May you get to know Him!

Words translated from the Gk = Greek and Hb=Hebrew.

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OUR VISION

“My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge;”

Hosea 4:6

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:”

Proverbs 23:7

“...and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;”

Colossians 1:9

“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.”

Proverbs 24:3-5

“And the Gospel must first be published among all nations.”

Mark 13:10

As the Scriptures speak for themselves, our vision is to empower Believers everywhere to live a victorious abundant lifestyle that can be obtained through wisdom and understanding. If you are willing to change the way you think, you can change the way you live. A renewed mind towards the Word of God established you firmly in the faith and opens the door for the blessings and benefits of God to become evident in your life.

Because We Believe In You,
John and Karen Pelizzari

HOW TO TURN A STAFF INTO STUFF

Genesis 28:1 And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan.

1. Jacob is being called by his father who is about to send him out into the world to start his life.
2. His father Isaac gives him two things:
 - #1. A spoken blessing.
 - #2. A charge, an order or set of instructions.
3. Understand, if the instructions are not followed, the blessings may be blocked.
4. The reason Isaac told Jacob not to marry a Canaanite woman was because God had forbidden Israel to mix with any other nation, lest they bring a curse on themselves.

Genesis 28:2 Arise, go to Padan-aram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.

Padan-aram - Hb - which means “*a place of extension, to extend.*”

5. So we see symbolically that God’s intention is to extend, or to bring increase into Jacob’s life.

Bethuel - Hb - which means “*destroyed of God.*”

6. So symbolically, when we take the names of these two places, God is saying “*I am going to take you to a place that was destroyed by God, a place where there seems to be nothing and from that place of nothing, I am going to bring increase to your life.*”
7. Notice, at that place of nothing, Jacob is instructed to enter into a covenant, and take a wife.
8. So, in the place of nothing, God is going to bring increase to Jacob. In the least likely place, God is going to do a wondrous work.

Genesis 28:3-4 [3] And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people; [4] And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.

9. So all that Jacob has to go on is what the authority over his life spoke unto him.
 - a. That’s it, just a word, a promise, a prophecy.
 10. Notice the sevenfold blessing:
 - #1. God Almighty will bless you.
 - #2. God will make you fruitful.
 - #3. God will multiply you.
 - #4. God will make turn you into multitude.
 - #5. God will give you Abraham’s blessing.
 - #6. Abraham’s blessing will be given to your kids as well.
 - #7. And you’ll inherit some land.
 11. Now, what is Abraham’s blessing? Justification by faith!
 - a. Meaning, if you will act on what God says, you will receive what God promises.
 - b. That meant prosperity, wealth, health, favor, material goods and so forth.
- Genesis 28:5 And Isaac sent away Jacob: and he went to Padan-aram unto Laban, son**

of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, Jacob's and Esau's mother.

12. Understand now that Isaac is leaving empty handed. The only thing he has is a staff.
- a. There is no camel train loaded with supplies, treasures and goodies.
 - b. There are no armed escorts, friends hopping along or a personal servant.
 - c. Let's jump several verses.

Genesis 28:10 And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran.

Beer-sheba - Hb - means "*well of an oath*" which would symbolize a place where many oaths / promises gushed forth.

Haran - Hb - means "*parched*," lacking refreshing or life sustaining water.

13. Here's what we see in Jacob's journey so far in a symbolic sense:
- a. He is leaving behind a place called a well of oath, a place where promises can be can bring refreshing and life.

- b. He is told to go to a place that was destroyed by God, a place that seems least likely.
- c. So he leaves the place of refreshing and travels through a dry place.
- d. When he reaches his destination, he is to enter into a covenant and marry a woman with nothing to offer her but the staff that he is carrying.

14. This is not a good start in life. It seems to be getting worse and it definitely makes no sense.

15. Even if he does find a wife, how will he support her, get food, take care of the expenses, all he has is his staff, a blessing spoken over him and some instructions not to compromise.

- a. That makes no sense and it certainly doesn't seem like it will take you very far.
- b. Now, lets validate that he didn't have much to go with.

Genesis 28:11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

16. He lit a fire, found a rock, used it as a pillow, curled up his feet and went to sleep.
- a. From there God invades his dreams.
 - b. In that dream, the Lord validates what was spoken into his life.
17. So now Jacob has an inner knowing that God is going to do some wonderful things in his life, despite how things currently are.

Genesis 28:18 **And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.**

18. So the first thing he does on this journey is to erect a place to honor God. He sets up a stone monument, pours oil over it. He is building a place to worship God and setting it up as a reminder that God was with him.

Genesis 28:19 **And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.**

Bethel - Hb - "*house of God.*"

Luz - Hb - meaning "*as growing there.*"

19. The symbolic language here tells us that it is at the *house of God* that he is beginning *to grow*.

Genesis 28:20 **And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,**

20. Now notice what Jacob does. He vows a vow. He makes a promise.
- a. Biblically, vows were always made on a voluntary basis.
 - b. Vows were not allowed to be broken.
 - c. If you made a promise, and didn't keep it, you could make your angel mad.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 **[4] When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. [5] Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. [6] Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?**

21. So we see that God is serious about keeping ones promise.

Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 (MSG) [4] **When you tell God you'll do something, do it—now. God takes no pleasure in foolish gabble. Vow it, then do it. [5] Far better not to vow in the first place than to vow and not pay up. [6] Don't let your mouth make a total sinner of you. When called to account, you won't get by with "Sorry, I didn't mean it." Why risk provoking God to angry retaliation?**

22. So the first thing we see is Jacob setting the conditions to his covenant contract with God.

Genesis 28:20-21 [20] **And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, [21] So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God:**

23. Notice the terms:

#1. God will be with me.

#2. Keep (protect me) as I go.

#3. Bread to eat.

#4. Raiment to put on / clothes to put on.

#5. In peace.

24. Four things: God's presence, God's protection and God's provision, God's peace

25. In return...

Genesis 28:22 **And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.**

26. He will recognize God's house and he will give a tenth of everything that comes through his hands.

27. This shows us four important foundations in Jacob's journey in life;

#1. You must have a place of worship to go to, called **God's house**; today, that's called the local church.

#2. **And of all that thou shalt give me** - acknowledges that God is the one who provides and blesses.

#3. **And of all that thou shalt give me** - also shows that Jacob had an expectancy for God to move in his life and to bring needs wants and desires to him.

#4. **I will surely give the tenth** - that everything that came into his hands, Jacob would tithe off of acknowledging that it was God who made it happen.

28. I want to point out some faith building steps that you can take from Jacob's journey.

29. **First**, when Jacob left home, he had nothing but his staff with him. He had nothing but a long stick, a promise and a caution not to compromise.

Faith step #1 - sometimes, before you have everything that God promises, you can start with nothing like Jacob did.

a. But you need to have an expectancy of God wanting to move in your life.

30. **Second**, he recognized a need to meet with God at a designated place.

Faith Step #2 - when you have a church home, it can become the pillar of truth that will minister rest to your head and heart each and every time you visit.

a. The more people miss church, the more they lose their peace.

b. The more peace they lose, the more their pillar crumbles.

30. **Third**, he began to tithe. He continued to tithe without letting up on it.

a. If you will study his life, you will find that he kept on tithing without interruption.

Faith Step #3 - Tithing is God's way to make his people wealthy. This is as true today as it was when Jacob adapted it.

31. **Fourth**, when Jacob began his journey home, he was rich even though he was scared to death of his brother Esau.

Genesis 32:10 **I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.**

32. He started with nothing but came out with everything God promised.

Genesis 32:10 (NLT) **I am not worthy of all the faithfulness and unfailing love you have shown to me, your servant. When I left**

home, I owned nothing except a walking stick, and now my household fills two camps!

33. He said he went in with his staff but was now coming out with two companies or two bands of people plus his extreme wealth.

Genesis 32:10 (MSG)

I don't deserve all the love and loyalty you've shown me. When I left here and crossed the Jordan I only had the clothes on my back, and now look at me—two camps!

Faith Step #4 - Obviously Jacob kept his promise to tithe and over a course of time, it paid off. He went from having nothing but the clothes on his back to having two complete camps full of flocks, herds, servants, wealth and family.

- a. As you honor God with your tithe, He honors His promises to be made manifest in your life.
 - b. God will make us wealthy if we tithe and keep on tithing.
34. Jacob started out in the most least likely conditions and ended up prosperous.

- a. He had trials and difficulties along the way.
- b. But think about this...

35. All of this in exchange for the three things Jacob promised God.

- a. He kept Him as his God all the days of his life.
- b. He set up a pillar of stone for God's house.
- c. He started tithing and continued to tithe, giving ten percent to God on everything that God gave him.

36. Finally, it took twenty years for this wealth to accumulate...only twenty years.

37. Many today get discouraged because wealth does not come in a few days, weeks or months.

- a. We get so down, we just want to quit.

38. But look at Jacob. Twenty years were required for his wealth.

- a. Sometimes we "hit it rich" overnight in the blessing God gives.
- b. This is wonderful but it is usually not the way.

39. Think about this: there are going to be many ups and downs in your lifetime.
- a. There were ups and downs in Jacob's life, mostly by family members.
40. Nevertheless, keep on keeping on in tithing like Jacob and God will come through for you too.
- a. He will come through for you, a little today, a little more tomorrow and a little more the next day.
 - b. But add it all up and you will be surprised what God is doing on your behalf.

Deuteronomy 8:18 **But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.**

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NLT) **Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you power to become rich...**