

## When Failure Isn't Final Genesis 28-35

### 1. A Portrait of Conditional Obedience, Genesis 28:18-22

*So early in the morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called the name of that place Bethel, but the name of the city was Luz at the first. Then Jacob made 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 clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."*

- Genesis 28:18-22

### 2. A Portrait of a Crooked Family Tree, Genesis 29-31

Rich Mullins, *Jacob and 2 Women*

Jacob, he loved Rachel and Rachel, she loved him  
And Leah was just there for dramatic effect  
Well it's right there in the Bible, so it must not be a sin  
But it sure does seem like an awful dirty trick

*But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."*

- Isaiah 57:20-21

### 3. A Portrait of Hope After Our Failures, Genesis 32

*The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."*

- Genesis 32:22-30