

I'd like to talk about dreams for a bit. We have visions of what we would like to see accomplished, and we call those dreams. We also experience the weirdnesses of the night which we sometimes remember, and we have termed these dreams as well.

Jacob reports having both of those kinds of dreams this week.

His first dream is the most famous of his dreams, and comes under the category of weird sights. He is running away to avoid his brother's anger (and running towards a spouse of some kind) and at his first encampment he lays down on the rocks and imagines a ladder. The ladder extends as far as the eye can see, and God's messengers go up and down.

The second dream isn't quite as famous, and is much more practical. Jacob has spent several years working so that he can get married, and as all of his wives now have children, it is time to go home. It is essential to go home with some visible proof of the hard work he has done, and so he dreams that God is ensuring that no matter how much Laban will try to worm out of it, Jacob will get what he deserves. If Laban picks strange colored critters to be Jacob's property, than nothing gets born but strange colored critters.

We tend to forget his second dream. First, the subject matter is a bit prosaic, and it seems to make a lot of sense, which makes it kind of forgettable. Second, we rarely want to think of our ancestors taking up God's time with the mundane issues of making a living.

Yet there are a few important implications of this second dream. 1) What we allow to become important will become the focus of our creativity. 2) If we don't like the types of dreams we seem to be having, then perhaps a change is in order. 3) God is also part of the practical in life.

May you all enjoy your Thanksgiving, and may the entire world exhibit the "attitude of gratitude."