

**March 14, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Gen. 35:2-5** *So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Get rid of the foreign gods you have with you, and purify yourselves and change your clothes. Then come, let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and who has been with me wherever I have gone.” So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears, and Jacob buried them under the oak at Shechem. Then they set out, and the terror of God fell on the towns all around them so that no one pursued them. (NIV)*

To live in the abundance of God, we must be willing to lay down the things that weigh us down. Obviously, the people in Jacob’s household had started picking up the things of the world along the way. Just a little of this here and a little more there won’t really matter, right? Before long, you realize that you are weighted down by the cares of life and the things that really don’t matter. And so, just as Jesus mentioned in the parable of the Sower in **Mk. 4:18-19** *Still others, like seed sown among the thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. (NIV)* And so, Jacob buried them under a tree. Now isn’t this just like God? The place where God led Abram to offer His son to build an altar and sacrifice his son Isaac is the place of the tree which was later to be the same place where Jesus hung on the tree and all of our sins were buried forever. The place where the veil was torn in the Temple to allow us entrance to the Father. How should we then live? **Heb. 12:1-3** *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (NIV)*

**Dear LORD, thank You that our sins were buried on the tree when Jesus bled and died for us. Help us to live unencumbered because we have been set free! Praise You LORD! In Jesus Name, Amen**