

“So Jacob told everyone in his household, “Get rid of all your pagan idols, purify yourselves, and put on clean clothing. We are now going to Bethel, where I will build an altar to the God who answered my prayers when I was in distress. He has been with me wherever I have gone.” Genesis 35:2-3 NLT

lectio // Genesis 35:1-15

God tells Jacob to prepare to leave for Bethel. Here Genesis records his comments to his household, get rid of pagan idols, wash and put on new clothes. Later it says they buried this stuff, idols and earrings, under a tree. I'm sure the idols were "weighing" them down in more ways than one. But when preparing to move, preparing for something new, it's time to get rid of the old. And, in preparing themselves, they washed and got dressed for a date with destiny. Let the outside actions and habits change to allow something on the inside to change - usually it's the other way around. Change heart, then change clothes. Here it's clothes, then heart.

oratio

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

Our church will be moving very soon. I hear the echo of these words in our transition, “get rid of idols, purify (wash) and put on some new clothes. Maybe the garment change will help the hearts change!

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root