

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Mar.....Genesis 21-23.....A Substitute
- 2) 10 Mar.....Genesis 24.....Guidance Needed
- 3) 17 Mar.....Genesis 25-27.....A Deceiver
- 4) 24 Mar.....Genesis 28-30.....A Stairway
- 5) 31 Mar.....John 20.....Believe!
- 6) 07 Apr.....Genesis 30-31.....Blessed
- 7) 14 Apr.....Genesis 32-33.....Wrestled
- 8) 21 Apr.....Genesis 34-36.....Renewed
- 9) 28 Apr.....Genesis 37.....Dreamer
- 10) 05 May.....Genesis 38-39.....Accused
- 11) 12 May.....Genesis 40-41.....Revealed
- 12) 19 May.....Genesis 42-46.....Reconcile
- 13) 26 May.....Genesis 47-50.....Revenge?

INTRODUCTION

- Jacob wrestles with a Heavenly Being and is never the same again. Are we saying a puny human whipped up on Heaven's best? How can that be?
- Can we wrestle with God to get something from Him?
- Can we even negotiate with God to get our way?

Passage	Comments
32:1-2	<p>The Angels of God Met Jacob at "Two Camps"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahanaim is mentioned 13x in the OT as a city of Gad – about 40 miles north of the Dead Sea • These 2 verses don't say much, but that doesn't mean they are unimportant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Angels have a function to minister to God's servants, though, we are not aware of them.....Heb 1:14 ♦ In this case, they reveal themselves – possibly as an encouragement to Jacob ♦ Jacob acknowledges they are from God ('this is God's camp') and marks the place – and it becomes a reference point for several other biblical journeys to start, end, or march through..... Jos 21:38; 2Sam 2:8 ♦ Do you have any vivid points of remembrance where God had a major impact on your life?
32: 4-8	<p>Time to Reconcile with Big Brother Esau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esau traveled about 150 miles to meet Jacob • vv6-8. Jacob was courteous to send an advanced notice to Esau, but was surprised at Esau's response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 400 men could be considered a warring party ♦ Remember, Abraham had an army of 318 to rescue Lot from marauders.....Gen 14:14 ♦ Jacob had feelings like the rest of us under life & death situations → Great fear; he was distressed; and he acted before praying ♦ Jacob seemingly acted wisely by separating his possessions – hoping not to lose everything; Or was Jacob a coward and acted out of fear? • Should reconciliation with family be this difficult? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Who should make the 1st move?.....Rom 12:18 ♦ Should it not be the most spiritually mature? "He that's in the know should be the 1st to go" ♦ BUT what if the offended party doesn't want to reconcile?.....2Cor 5:18
32:9-12	<p>Jacob's Prayer for Deliverance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. Jacob called God, not his God, but his father's God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall earlier that Jacob would not call God his God or "my God" till God had successfully allowed him to return to his father's house.....Gen 28:21 • vv10-12. Jacob acknowledged his worthlessness, God's greatness, and asks for mercy in deliverance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What deliverance has God performed for you?

Passage	Comments
32:13-23	<p>A Timely Gift Can Appease the Hardest Hearts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v20. Jacob prepared a tremendous gift to appease Esau's anger and he made preparation for a speedy rendezvous as he sent everything to the other side of the river the day before. Did Jacob overdo it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How much effort or expense should it take to reconcile with loved ones? Are we willing to pay it? ♦ What kind of gifts should be given? Prov 18:16; 21:14
32:24-32	<p>Jacob Wrestled with God & Got a Blessing & a Curse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does someone wrestle w/ God? Is it in persistent prayer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe.....Lk 18:1-8 • Some people who spent all night in prayer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus.....Luke 6:12 Samuel.....1Samuel 15:11 David.....2Samuel 12:16 Nehemiah.....Nehemiah 1:5-6 • Should we persist with our original prayer request(s), or if not answered, adjust it till we get an answer; or if we know God's will shall we acquiesce to His solution? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Can we negotiate with God for a different or modified solution? Is God ever flexible? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe/Depends <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know 1. Abraham pleaded for Sodom.....Gen 18:16-32 2. Moses pleaded for Israel's survival.....Ex 32:9-14 3. Hezekiah got 15 more years.....2Kings 20:1-11 4. Ezekiel made out a little better.....Ezek 4:12-15 5. Jesus, however, was not successful in getting God to consider Plan B (remove this cup).Mat 26:39-42 ♦ Consider This. Know the difference between being biblically persistent and being obnoxious or we could receive "leanness to our soul" for praying for things just to satisfy our lust.....Ps 160:13-15 • God's Angel (a probable Christophany) smote Jacob with a limp. Why would God resort to injuring Jacob with a life-long malady? Does He do the same to us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Some reasons God may afflict His saints <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's Purpose (e.g., genetic disposition) ...Ex 4:11 2. God's Glory.....Ps 142:7 3. Testing.....Job; Luke 4:1-13 4. Instructive.....Ps 119:71; Luke 15:11-17 5. Cause & Effect (e.g., poor diet)....Dan 1:8,12,13,15 6. Preventive (humbling).....2Cor 12:7 7. Happenstance (e.g., floods & fire).....Mat 5:45 8. Chastisement (due to sin).....Rev 3:19 • God also blessed Jacob with a new name – Israel • Jacob, again, marks the place – Peniel – "facing God"

GENESIS 32 CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Remember, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation ([2Cor 5:18](#)). Take it seriously, for by it, we heal family and church rifts, and we bring others to Christ.



GENESIS 33 INTRODUCTION

- Esau showed grace to Jacob by running to him and embracing him like a long-lost brother, but Jacob just deceived Esau one more time by telling Esau he will meet him at Seir, but Jacob detoured to Succoth instead, 100 miles away.
- If we were teaching principles of reconciliation this chapter would show us more of what we should not do vs what we should do

Passage	Comments
Genesis 33:1-4	<p>Esau Runs to Jacob</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favoritism Can Kill. The least favored wives (the handmaids) & their kids were put on the front line, the first to be killed if Esau came with evil intent • Leah and her kids were 3rd in line to be killed • Rachel, the favored wife, had the most secure position in the back of the line. • Was Jacob loving toward his wives & kids by lining them up in this fashion? What would you have done differently? Was Jacob spiritually mature? • v4. Esau did not hold a grudge against Jacob and warmly welcomed the return of his long-lost brother <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Recall that Esau wanted to kill Jacob earlier for cheating him out of his family inheritance? ♦ How come Jacob, the believer in the family, was out shown in grace by his "immoral and godless" brother, Esau? Heb 12:16 ♦ NOTE. When we Christians fail in our duty to be a positive witness to unbelievers, we actually do harm to God's Kingdom, for we cause people to blaspheme/curse God Rom 2:24

SPECIAL NOTE ON RACHEL'S FAVORED STATUS:

Her progeny (her sons, Joseph & Benjamin & her grandkids by Joseph, beginning with Ephraim and Manasseh) are recognized as the country of Israel in one particular Psalm, "Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead **Joseph** like a flock; you who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth before **Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.** Awaken your might; come and save us. [Psalm 80:2](#)

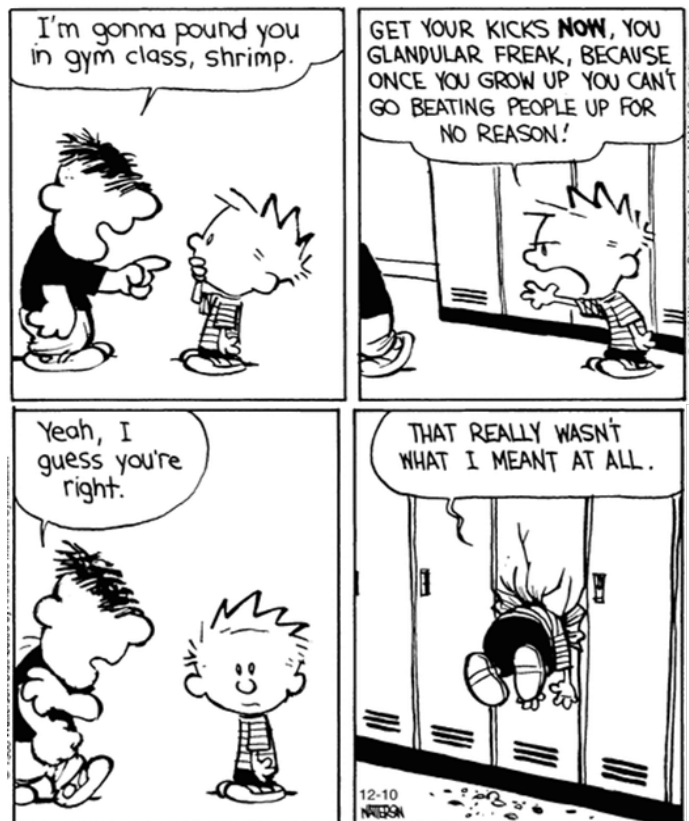
33:5-11	<p>Esau Meets the Wives & Kids & Livestock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esau gets to see Jacob's vast holdings – wives, kids, servants, and animals • Esau reluctantly receives Jacob's gift (200 female goats & 20 male goats, 200 ewes and 20 rams, 30 milking camels & their colts, forty cows and 10 bulls, 20 donkeys and 10 foals). Over 100 animals – enough to make a poor man rich in a short time.
33:12-15	<p>Esau Says, "Let's Travel Together"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v12. Esau offers to lead his brother toward home • vv13,14. Jacob, however, made an excuse and basically said he would show up later at his own pace. Jacob told Esau he would meet him at Seir. BUT instead, Jacob detoured to Succoth, 100 miles away, deceiving his brother one more time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What should Jacob have done? • v15a. Esau even offered to leave some of his servants behind to help Jacob. How noble. • v15b. Jacob politely refused Esau's help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What would Jacob be concerned about? ♦ Presumably, Jacob wanted to avoid conflict as much as possible. ♦ Was Jacob's behavior biblically appropriate? ♦ Jacob still showed no intent to properly reconcile ♦ Should Christians do better with reconciling?

Passage	Comments
33:16-20	<p>Jacob Says, "Fat Chance"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob, after he detoured to Succoth, is now in the Promised Land currently inhabited by Canaanites • v20. Jacob sought to honor God by erecting an altar as a place of formal worship, and he named it El-elohe-Israel = "the Mighty God of Israel" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Was this an honorable thing for Jacob to do, or was he just going through the motions trying to please God? ♦ How do we seek to honor God after He brings us safely through an ordeal? ♦ What is our "Sacrifice of Thanksgiving?" Ps 50:23

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- The more noble person in this story was not Jacob, but his estranged and "immoral and godless" ([Heb 12:16](#)) brother, Esau, who earlier wanted to kill Jacob for stealing his birthright & inheritance
- Lack of reconciliation can cause unnecessary separation for years
- Seek reconciliation quickly – "if possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" [Rom 12:18](#)
- The element of time doesn't always heal all wounds. Often, bitterness sits in and makes reconciliation that much harder.
- Remember, we are given the ministry of reconciliation to bring sinners to Christ and to fix broken relationships – this is a priority for all Christians [2Cor 5:18](#)
- Also, do we love others enough to point them to Christ
 - ♦ Do we love God enough to fix what is broke in our lives?
 - ♦ And, do we THINK before we act?

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 34-36. Dinah, Jacob's only daughter, is raped, and her brothers take revenge by killing every man in town and absconding with the town's women and wealth; and Rachel dies giving birth to Benjamin. Will the drama and pain ever end?



RECONCILIATION PRINCIPLE #1: WHAT NOT TO DO