LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 02 Dec '18 Genesis 25-27 The Deceiver
2) 09 Dec Genesis 28 Not Alone
3) 16 Dec Genesis 29-30 Family?
4) 23 Dec Luke 1 Christmas Message Promise Kept
5) 30 Dec Genesis 30-31 Home!
6) 06 Jan '19 Genesis 32 Transformed

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

**The Angels of God Met Jacob at “Two Camps”**

- 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
  - 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?

32:1-2

**Time to Reconcile with Big Brother Esau**

- 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
  - 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?
    - 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: 4-8

**Jacob’s Prayer for Deliverance**

- v9. Jacob called God, not his God, but his father’s God
  - 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
  - What deliverance has God performed for you?

32.9-12

**A Timely Gift Can Appease the Hardest Hearts**

- 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?
  - 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 16:16; 21:14

32:13-23

**Jacob Wrestled with God & Got a Blessing & a Curse**

- How does someone wrestle with God? Is it in persistent prayer? Yes | No | Maybe
  - Some people who spent all night in prayer:
    - 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?
  - Can we negotiate with God for a different or modified solution? Is God ever flexible?
  - Did Jacob overdo it?
    - 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

32:24-32

**Consider This**. Know the difference between being biblically persistent and being obnoxious or we could receive “leaness 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?
  - Some reasons God may afflict His saints
    - 1. God’s Purpose (e.g., genetic disposition) Ex 4:11
    - 2. God’s Glory Ps 142:7
    - 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”

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.

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 33. 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.

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Rod O’Neil (rod.onell@twc.com)