INTRODUCTION

• Esau showed grace to Jacob by running to him and embracing him like a long-lost brother, but Jacob deceived Esau one more time.
• 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

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<thead>
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<th>Passage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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| Genesis 33:1-4 | Esau Runs to Jacob
• 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 being 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
• 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?  

• 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

| Genesis 33:5-11 | Esau Meets the Wives & Kids & Livestock
• Esau gets to see Jacob’s vast holdings – wives, kids, servants, and animals
• Esau reluctantly receives Jacob’s gift (200 she goats & 20 he goats, 200 ewes & 20 rams, 30 milking camels & their colts, forty cows & 10 bulls, 20 donkeys and 10 foals). Over 100 animals – enough to make a poor man rich in a short time.

| Genesis 33:12-15 | Esau Says, “Let’s Travel Together”
• 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.
• What should he have done?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

• The more noble person in this story was not Jacob, but his “immoral and godless” (Heb 12:16) estranged brother, Esau, who earlier wanted to kill him 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 times, bitterness sits in and makes reconciliation that much harder.


RECONCILIATION PRINCIPLE #1: WHAT NOT TO DO