



# Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

*OurMDC.org*  
(925) 354-1096  
1641 Bixler Road,  
Discovery Bay  
California 94505

*Program for Sunday, March 3, 2024*

*Please welcome Joann leading worship music this morning!*

**Call to Praise:** *Here I Am To Worship*

*Good, Good Father*

**Welcome, announcements, and prayer:**

- **Good morning and thank you for joining our Worship Service today!**
- **The Weekly Bible Study is this Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.** We will continue on lesson #3. The series is about "Where is God in the midst of suffering?" The bible study (#3) is on the back table. These will also be emailed to those that are requesting them.
- **We had a wonderful Potluck and business meeting last Sunday.** If you were not able to attend, you can pick up a copy of the meeting packet on the back information table.
- **We are continuing to collect recyclable plastic, glass, and aluminum cans and bottles** as a fund raiser for Children's ministry.
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- **Financial update:**

	Budget: \$9,327
	Actual: \$9,942
	Net Increase: \$+327

**Adoration:** *Great Are You Lord*

*Breathe*

**Message:** *Jacob: Past is Past*

**Response Invitation:** *10,000 Reasons*

**Assurance Sending:** *This Is Amazing Grace*

**Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues**

## Message Notes:

### Friday Devotional: Psalm 40:5

Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done,  
And Your thoughts toward us;  
There is none to compare with You.  
If I would declare and speak of them,  
They would be too numerous to count.

### Jacob is afraid. Jacob is alone.

32:13a So he spent the night there.

32:22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

24 Then Jacob was left alone...

**Jacob's issue: Can the promise of God be trusted..., for Jacob?**

**My issue: Can the promise of God be trusted..., for me?**

### Jacob's mindset:

32:7 Greatly afraid and distressed.

32:10 Feeling unworthy.

32:11 Afraid for himself and his family.

32:24 Jacob was left alone.

**Jacob crosses Jabbok in order to "Abaq."**

**Crooked crosses Emptying in order to Wrestle.**

### Who is the stranger? Hosea 12:3-5

12:3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel,  
And in his maturity he contended with God.

4 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed;  
He wept and sought His favor.

He found Him at Bethel

And there He spoke with us,

5 Even the LORD, the God of hosts,  
The LORD is His name.

### Principles and Applications:

- Jacob has become more mature emotionally and spiritually.
  - Depending less on his schemes, and more on God.
  - Haran/ Laban was a training ground. What is your training ground?
    - Do you feel God at work in your training ground?
    - Have you thanked God for your training ground?
- Are you at a place where you see yourself as God sees you?
  - Do you tell God "the whole story?"
- God wants us to know how much we need Him, even though He already knows. He wants us to have that conversation with Him.

- Guilt and fear drive out peace and faith. Deal with those on God's terms.
- Are your prayers based on your belief in the love of God for you?
  - God deals with us before He deals with our petitions.
- Are you praying about the promises of God for you?
  - God never abandons His promises. Full stop.
  - Are you all in on the promises of God?
- God knows our needs and has a plan. We still need to ask.
- God can transform a life. Our past does not equal our future.
  - Freedom comes from the truth of God.
  - We need to allow God's transformational power in us and through us.
- Jacob was where God wanted Jacob to be:
  - Content, Dependent, and Focused on God.
- In what areas in my life do I need for God to show up?

### **Life of Jacob points to Jesus**

- Inversion of common belief structure:
  - In defeat there is victory.
  - In humility, there is glory.
  - In weakness, there is strength.
  - Broken can be healed.
  - Love can triumph over hate.
  - Mercy can triumph over worldly judgment.
  - Humble obedience can triumph over worldly power.
- Jacob: He is me.
- Wrestle with God: Who is He? Who am I?
- We have a new name with a new future: **Beloved.**

### **Genesis 32. Jacob fears Esau**

32:1 Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him. 2 Jacob said when he saw them, "This is God's camp." So he named that place Mahanaim. 3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. 4 He also commanded them saying, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: 'Thus says your servant Jacob, "I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now; 5 I have oxen and donkeys and flocks and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'""

32:6 The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and the herds and the camels, into two companies; 8 for he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape."

32:11 Save me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me and the mothers with the children. 12

For You said, 'I will assuredly make you prosper and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be counted.'"

13 So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a gift for his brother Esau: 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, 15 thirty milking camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. 16 Then he placed them in the care of his servants, every flock by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between flocks." 17 And he commanded the one in front, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these animals in front of you belong?'

32:18 then you shall say, 'These belong to your servant Jacob; it is a gift sent to my lord Esau. And behold, he also is behind us.'" 19 Then he commanded also the second and the third, and all those who followed the flocks, saying, "In this way you shall speak to Esau when you find him; 20 and you shall say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob also is behind us.'" For he said, "I will appease him with the gift that goes ahead of me. Then afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me." 21 So the gift passed on ahead of him, while he himself spent that night in the camp.

22 Now he got up that same night and took his two wives, his two female slaves, and his eleven children, and crossed the shallow place of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

### **Genesis 33. Jacob meets Esau**

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4 Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. 5 He raised his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." 6 Then the slave women came forward with their children, and they bowed down. 7 And Leah likewise came forward with her children, and they bowed down; and afterward Joseph came forward with Rachel, and they bowed down. 8a And he said, "What do you mean by all this company which I have met?"

33:8b And he said, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." 9 But Esau said, "I have plenty, my brother; let what you have be your own." 10 Jacob said, "No, please, if now I have found favor in your sight, then accept my gift from my hand, for I see your face as one sees the face of God, and you have received me

favorably. 11 Please accept my gift which has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have plenty.” So he urged him, and he accepted it.

12 Then Esau said, “Let’s journey on and go, and I will go ahead of you.” 13 But he said to him, “My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds that are nursing are a matter of concern to me. And if they are driven hard just one day, all the flocks will die. 14 Please let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will proceed at my leisure, at the pace of the cattle that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir.”

15 Then Esau said, “Please let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord.” 16 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. 17 But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built for himself a house and made booths for his livestock; therefore the place is named Succoth.

### **Jacob: He is Me?**

- Remembered for failure?
  - Decisions/ Actions in
    - Marriage, business, parenting, youth?
  - Let your spouse down? Let your children down?
  - Let your guard down? Let your debt get out of control?
  - Grappling with the stigma of a
    - Divided family, broken heart, grudge holder?
- Don’t have the resources to fix everything for everyone, everywhere, all the time?
- Jacob has to deal with God before he can deal with Esau.

God is the hero of this story; not Jacob.

- Abraham lies.
- Jacob lies and cheats.
- Moses murders.
- David steals and murders.
- Solomon marries out of the faith.
- Elijah is afraid.
- Kings embrace foreign religions.
- Esther is afraid.
- Peter denies.
- Paul persecutes.
- Me. When I make His story my story, my story is redeemed.

**They all came to trust God for their future, and did not let their feelings about their past control them.**

Esau: changed, but not transformed.

- Genesis 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew

- Ate, drank, rose, went, despised.
- When Esau sees Jacob
  - Ran, embraced, fell on his neck, kissed, wept.
- God went out ahead of Jacob and changed the heart of Esau.
- Jesus used the actions of Esau to exemplify the actions of the father of the prodigal son as told in Luke 15.

#### Principles and Applications:

- God can transform our hearts, our minds, our lives!
- Peace with God can open the way for peace with others.
- Our past does not rule our future, unless we let it.
- We can choose to let go, and be transformed by God.
- With faith, we can have a new purpose and a new future.
- To have that new beginning in Christ, we need to:
  - Embrace it with faith. We are a new creation!
  - Let go of the burdens of the past, with the help of God!
  - Accept the love of God. I am not crooked. **“I am Beloved.”**
  - Seek and accept the forgiveness of God, on His terms. **“I am Forgiven.”**
- Keep a gratitude journal.
- God never abandons His promises.
- God deals with us before He deals with our petitions.
- God knows our needs, and God has a plan.
- Pray that we are kept from our own scheming/ tricks.
- When there is conflict in a relationship, seek to BE the blessing.
- Grace and forgiveness can bring redemptive change.

#### **1 Corinthians 11:23-24**

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

#### **1 Corinthians 11:25-26**

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.**

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They would be too numerous to count.

### Jacob is afraid. Jacob is alone.

32:13a So he spent the night there.

32:22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

24 Then Jacob was left alone...

**Jacob's issue: Can the promise of God be trusted..., for Jacob?**

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### Jacob's mindset:

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**Jacob crosses Jabbok in order to "Abaq."**

**Crooked crosses Emptying in order to Wrestle.**

### Who is the stranger? Hosea 12:3-5

12:3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel,  
And in his maturity he contended with God.

4 Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed;  
He wept and sought His favor.

He found Him at Bethel

And there He spoke with us,

5 Even the LORD, the God of hosts,  
The LORD is His name.

### Principles and Applications:

- Jacob has become more mature emotionally and spiritually.
  - Depending less on his schemes, and more on God.
  - Haran/ Laban was a training ground. What is your training ground?
    - Do you feel God at work in your training ground?
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- Are your prayers based on your belief in the love of God for you?
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- Jacob was where God wanted Jacob to be:
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### **Life of Jacob points to Jesus**

- Inversion of common belief structure:
  - In defeat there is victory.
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  - In weakness, there is strength.
  - Broken can be healed.
  - Love can triumph over hate.
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- Jacob: He is me.
- Wrestle with God: Who is He? Who am I?
- We have a new name with a new future: **Beloved.**

### **Genesis 32. Jacob fears Esau**

32:1 Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him. 2 Jacob said when he saw them, "This is God's camp." So he named that place Mahanaim. 3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. 4 He also commanded them saying, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: 'Thus says your servant Jacob, "I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now; 5 I have oxen and donkeys and flocks and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'""

32:6 The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and the herds and the camels, into two companies; 8 for he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape."

32:11 Save me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me and the mothers with the children. 12

For You said, 'I will assuredly make you prosper and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be counted.'"

13 So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a gift for his brother Esau: 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, 15 thirty milking camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. 16 Then he placed them in the care of his servants, every flock by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between flocks." 17 And he commanded the one in front, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these animals in front of you belong?'

32:18 then you shall say, 'These belong to your servant Jacob; it is a gift sent to my lord Esau. And behold, he also is behind us.'" 19 Then he commanded also the second and the third, and all those who followed the flocks, saying, "In this way you shall speak to Esau when you find him; 20 and you shall say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob also is behind us.'" For he said, "I will appease him with the gift that goes ahead of me. Then afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me." 21 So the gift passed on ahead of him, while he himself spent that night in the camp.

22 Now he got up that same night and took his two wives, his two female slaves, and his eleven children, and crossed the shallow place of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

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33:1 Then Jacob raised his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel, and the two slave women. 2 He put the slave women and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. 3 But he himself passed on ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

4 Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. 5 He raised his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." 6 Then the slave women came forward with their children, and they bowed down. 7 And Leah likewise came forward with her children, and they bowed down; and afterward Joseph came forward with Rachel, and they bowed down. 8a And he said, "What do you mean by all this company which I have met?"

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favorably. 11 Please accept my gift which has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have plenty.” So he urged him, and he accepted it.

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15 Then Esau said, “Please let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord.” 16 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. 17 But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built for himself a house and made booths for his livestock; therefore the place is named Succoth.

### **Jacob: He is Me?**

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    - Marriage, business, parenting, youth?
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  - Let your guard down? Let your debt get out of control?
  - Grappling with the stigma of a
    - Divided family, broken heart, grudge holder?
- Don’t have the resources to fix everything for everyone, everywhere, all the time?
- Jacob has to deal with God before he can deal with Esau.

God is the hero of this story; not Jacob.

- Abraham lies.
- Jacob lies and cheats.
- Moses murders.
- David steals and murders.
- Solomon marries out of the faith.
- Elijah is afraid.
- Kings embrace foreign religions.
- Esther is afraid.
- Peter denies.
- Paul persecutes.
- Me. When I make His story my story, my story is redeemed.

**They all came to trust God for their future, and did not let their feelings about their past control them.**

Esau: changed, but not transformed.

- Genesis 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew

- Ate, drank, rose, went, despised.
- When Esau sees Jacob
  - Ran, embraced, fell on his neck, kissed, wept.
- God went out ahead of Jacob and changed the heart of Esau.
- Jesus used the actions of Esau to exemplify the actions of the father of the prodigal son as told in Luke 15.

#### Principles and Applications:

- God can transform our hearts, our minds, our lives!
- Peace with God can open the way for peace with others.
- Our past does not rule our future, unless we let it.
- We can choose to let go, and be transformed by God.
- With faith, we can have a new purpose and a new future.
- To have that new beginning in Christ, we need to:
  - Embrace it with faith. We are a new creation!
  - Let go of the burdens of the past, with the help of God!
  - Accept the love of God. I am not crooked. **“I am Beloved.”**
  - Seek and accept the forgiveness of God, on His terms. **“I am Forgiven.”**
- Keep a gratitude journal.
- God never abandons His promises.
- God deals with us before He deals with our petitions.
- God knows our needs, and God has a plan.
- Pray that we are kept from our own scheming/ tricks.
- When there is conflict in a relationship, seek to BE the blessing.
- Grace and forgiveness can bring redemptive change.

#### **1 Corinthians 11:23-24**

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

#### **1 Corinthians 11:25-26**

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.**

Prayer Request: [PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org](mailto:PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org)

Pastor Larry: [PastorLarry@OurMDC.org](mailto:PastorLarry@OurMDC.org)

Information: [Info@OurMDC.org](mailto:Info@OurMDC.org)

Office Location:

1641 Bixler Rd., Discovery Bay

Mailing: PO Box 1667,

Discovery Bay, CA 94505

Church phone: (925) 354-1096



# Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

*OurMDC.org*  
(925) 354-1096  
1641 Bixler Road,  
Discovery Bay  
California 94505

*Program for Sunday, March 3, 2024*

*Please welcome Joann leading worship music this morning!*

**Call to Praise:** *Here I Am To Worship*

*Good, Good Father*

**Welcome, announcements, and prayer:**

- **Good morning and thank you for joining our Worship Service today!**
- **The Weekly Bible Study is this Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.** We will continue on lesson #3. The series is about "Where is God in the midst of suffering?" The bible study (#3) is on the back table. These will also be emailed to those that are requesting them.
- **We had a wonderful Potluck and business meeting last Sunday.** If you were not able to attend, you can pick up a copy of the meeting packet on the back information table.
- **We are continuing to collect recyclable plastic, glass, and aluminum cans and bottles** as a fund raiser for Children's ministry.
- **We are looking at the possibility of renting out a few rooms in the green fellowship house.** If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact the church office or let the pastor or a board member know.
- **Please pick up Connect Cards/Envelopes** in the back for offerings, prayer requests and place it in one of the offering boxes. **Please note**, for pledge card donations, please mark your gift "BF" or "Building Fund."
- **Please contact us** for any needs, suggestions, or prayer requests:
  - Pastor Larry Quinnell - [PastorLarry@OurMDC.org](mailto:PastorLarry@OurMDC.org)
  - General Info. - [Info@OurMDC.org](mailto:Info@OurMDC.org)
  - Prayer requests - [PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org](mailto:PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org)
- **Financial update:**

	Budget: \$9,327
	Actual: \$9,942
	Net Increase: \$+327

**Adoration:** *Great Are You Lord*

*Breathe*

**Message:** *Jacob: Past is Past*

**Response Invitation:** *10,000 Reasons*

**Assurance Sending:** *This Is Amazing Grace*

**Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues**

## Message Notes:

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Prayer Request: [PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org](mailto:PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org)

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# Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

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  - We need to allow God's transformational power in us and through us.
- Jacob was where God wanted Jacob to be:
  - Content, Dependent, and Focused on God.
- In what areas in my life do I need for God to show up?

### **Life of Jacob points to Jesus**

- Inversion of common belief structure:
  - In defeat there is victory.
  - In humility, there is glory.
  - In weakness, there is strength.
  - Broken can be healed.
  - Love can triumph over hate.
  - Mercy can triumph over worldly judgment.
  - Humble obedience can triumph over worldly power.
- Jacob: He is me.
- Wrestle with God: Who is He? Who am I?
- We have a new name with a new future: **Beloved.**

### **Genesis 32. Jacob fears Esau**

32:1 Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him. 2 Jacob said when he saw them, "This is God's camp." So he named that place Mahanaim. 3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. 4 He also commanded them saying, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: 'Thus says your servant Jacob, "I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now; 5 I have oxen and donkeys and flocks and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'""

32:6 The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and the herds and the camels, into two companies; 8 for he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape."

32:11 Save me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me and the mothers with the children. 12

For You said, 'I will assuredly make you prosper and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be counted.'"

13 So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a gift for his brother Esau: 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, 15 thirty milking camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. 16 Then he placed them in the care of his servants, every flock by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me, and put a space between flocks." 17 And he commanded the one in front, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these animals in front of you belong?'

32:18 then you shall say, 'These belong to your servant Jacob; it is a gift sent to my lord Esau. And behold, he also is behind us.'" 19 Then he commanded also the second and the third, and all those who followed the flocks, saying, "In this way you shall speak to Esau when you find him; 20 and you shall say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob also is behind us.'" For he said, "I will appease him with the gift that goes ahead of me. Then afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me." 21 So the gift passed on ahead of him, while he himself spent that night in the camp.

22 Now he got up that same night and took his two wives, his two female slaves, and his eleven children, and crossed the shallow place of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

### **Genesis 33. Jacob meets Esau**

33:1 Then Jacob raised his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel, and the two slave women. 2 He put the slave women and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. 3 But he himself passed on ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

4 Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. 5 He raised his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." 6 Then the slave women came forward with their children, and they bowed down. 7 And Leah likewise came forward with her children, and they bowed down; and afterward Joseph came forward with Rachel, and they bowed down. 8a And he said, "What do you mean by all this company which I have met?"

33:8b And he said, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." 9 But Esau said, "I have plenty, my brother; let what you have be your own." 10 Jacob said, "No, please, if now I have found favor in your sight, then accept my gift from my hand, for I see your face as one sees the face of God, and you have received me

favorably. 11 Please accept my gift which has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have plenty.” So he urged him, and he accepted it.

12 Then Esau said, “Let’s journey on and go, and I will go ahead of you.” 13 But he said to him, “My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds that are nursing are a matter of concern to me. And if they are driven hard just one day, all the flocks will die. 14 Please let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will proceed at my leisure, at the pace of the cattle that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir.”

15 Then Esau said, “Please let me leave with you some of the people who are with me.” But he said, “What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord.” 16 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. 17 But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built for himself a house and made booths for his livestock; therefore the place is named Succoth.

### **Jacob: He is Me?**

- Remembered for failure?
  - Decisions/ Actions in
    - Marriage, business, parenting, youth?
  - Let your spouse down? Let your children down?
  - Let your guard down? Let your debt get out of control?
  - Grappling with the stigma of a
    - Divided family, broken heart, grudge holder?
- Don’t have the resources to fix everything for everyone, everywhere, all the time?
- Jacob has to deal with God before he can deal with Esau.

God is the hero of this story; not Jacob.

- Abraham lies.
- Jacob lies and cheats.
- Moses murders.
- David steals and murders.
- Solomon marries out of the faith.
- Elijah is afraid.
- Kings embrace foreign religions.
- Esther is afraid.
- Peter denies.
- Paul persecutes.
- Me. When I make His story my story, my story is redeemed.

**They all came to trust God for their future, and did not let their feelings about their past control them.**

Esau: changed, but not transformed.

- Genesis 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew

- Ate, drank, rose, went, despised.
- When Esau sees Jacob
  - Ran, embraced, fell on his neck, kissed, wept.
- God went out ahead of Jacob and changed the heart of Esau.
- Jesus used the actions of Esau to exemplify the actions of the father of the prodigal son as told in Luke 15.

#### Principles and Applications:

- God can transform our hearts, our minds, our lives!
- Peace with God can open the way for peace with others.
- Our past does not rule our future, unless we let it.
- We can choose to let go, and be transformed by God.
- With faith, we can have a new purpose and a new future.
- To have that new beginning in Christ, we need to:
  - Embrace it with faith. We are a new creation!
  - Let go of the burdens of the past, with the help of God!
  - Accept the love of God. I am not crooked. **“I am Beloved.”**
  - Seek and accept the forgiveness of God, on His terms. **“I am Forgiven.”**
- Keep a gratitude journal.
- God never abandons His promises.
- God deals with us before He deals with our petitions.
- God knows our needs, and God has a plan.
- Pray that we are kept from our own scheming/ tricks.
- When there is conflict in a relationship, seek to BE the blessing.
- Grace and forgiveness can bring redemptive change.

#### **1 Corinthians 11:23-24**

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

#### **1 Corinthians 11:25-26**

In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.**

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