

Genesis 32:13-21 : Like we recognized last week;

(89)

Jacob does not believe in God's provision (32:12): "For

You said, 'I will surely treat you well and make your descendants as the sand of the seas, which cannot be numbered for multitude'. And also before that (32:9): "the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you'".

Now in 13-21 he is willing to hand over absolutely everything that he earned while at Laban's to Esau so that Esau does not kill him (so he thinks). This is, but not limited to: 200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 Ewes, 20 Rams, 30 milk Camels (with their colts), 40 cows, 10 Bulls, 20 female Donkeys and 10 foals (of the donkeys). And he sends it out in groups ahead of him. then: 2

Genesis 32:22-23 he sends his two wives, two concubines, and all of his eleven sons out as well. I am not picking on Jacob but have to wonder; what kind of testimony is he giving everyone around him? He is basically saying, "God has told me to head back home. He has told me that He will treat me well (continue to) and that our family will flourish!". But, just to make sure I am going to give up everything I have accumulated, send it out in groups, and then I will send out my whole family. "You all go ahead and when the coast is clear I will come too".

Again, this illness of unbelief is not only present in Jacob's life! Abraham and Isaac had the same illness, I occasionally contract this illness. The only cure is to put on the glasses of God. To walk by faith not by sight!

Throughout the Bible we have hundreds of examples of people living with this illness and we have many many examples

of people using the cure. Two that come to mind are (90) little scrawny David as he looks at Goliath through God's eyes, and the account of the 12 spies and how Joshua and Caleb were the only two who also saw the conquest through the eyes of God (David: 1 Samuel 17, ^{PRINT OUT:} Twelve Spies: Exodus 23 + Numbers 13) (And Elisha: 2 Kings 6)

Now back to Jacob: Jacob had been given insight on how things were going to turn out in exactly the same manner as David, Joshua and Caleb, and Elisha! But he did not trust in the LORD like the above. So God (the pre-incarnate Jesus) came down in physical form to wrestle some faith into Jacob and to soften his stubbornness!

Genesis 32: 24-28 Jacob was "left alone". In other words he was all by himself, surely contemplating what his future would like, even though God had clearly told him. Jacob had, so far, lived a life wrestling with God. Knowing God's plan but conniving through his own "Jacob" (Heal Catcher / Deceiver) ways to make things happen versus letting God just take the steering wheel! So the Lord makes it happen by breaking him like a bucking bronco who needs to be tamed! He absolutely litterally wrestled with Jacob all that night. Jacob clung on to Him (knowing who He was) and God wrestled pure faith into him that night. So much so that Jacob would not let go until the Lord blessed Him! So He did! And He gave him a new name: Israel. (for you have wrestled with God (and men), and have prevailed). In other words: His faith had made him whole.

Genesis 32: 29 - 33: 18 Is a: And they (Esau + Jacob) lived happily ever after scenario. Albeit God did leave Jacob with a limp to remind him of the glorious day when the Lord set him free.