

Introduction:

Our text comes from **Genesis 32-33**. But first we need to recognize the “blessings” Jacob had already received. **Genesis 25:23** “*the older shall serve the younger*”; At Bethel, **Genesis 28:13** “*And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: “I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. 14 “Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. 15 “Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”* The land promise, promise of a great lineage, and the seed promise which would bless all the families of the earth. Eventually Jacob has great material wealth, **Genesis 30:43** “*Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.*” Finally, we think of Jacob’s large family with 12 sons and one daughter.

I) Summarizing Jacob’s Life Up To **Genesis 32**

- A) Jacob learned to manipulate and use others to get what he wanted.
- B) After twenty years in Padan Aram, Jacob is instructed by God to return to Canaan.

Genesis 31:1 *Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth." 2 And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before. 3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."*

- C) Jacob acknowledges the sovereign plan of God for the last twenty years.

Genesis 31:4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock, **5** and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me. **6** "And you know that with all my might I have served your father. **7** "Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.

II) The Fear of Going Home

A) How would Esau react?

1. The last time they interacted; Esau promised to kill Jacob.
2. What would have changed over the last twenty years?

B) Jacob sends a "peace offering"

Genesis 32:3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. **4** And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now. **5** "I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight."

1. Perhaps to show Esau, Jacob was not interested in his wealth.

C) The messengers come back with an alarming message

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

D) Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed

Genesis 32:7 So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies. **8** And he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape."

1. Jacob is dealing the possibility all he has might be taken from him.
2. Trying to cut his losses.

E) He prays to God

Genesis 32:9 Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you': **10** "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. **11** "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. **12** "For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

1. He acknowledges God
2. He mentions God's command to return to Canaan.
3. He acknowledges the mercy he had received from God, and the truth of God's word.
4. He ask for protection for himself and his family.
5. He mentions God's greater promise at Bethel.

F) He sends gifts to Esau to appease his anger, **Genesis 32.13-21**

Genesis 32:17 And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these in front of you?' **18** "then you shall say, 'They are your servant Jacob's. It is a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.'" **19** So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him; **20** "and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us.'" For he said, "I will appease him with the present that

goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."

III) The Wrestling Match

A) Jacob sends his family across the Jabbok River and is alone.

Genesis 32:21 *So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp. 22 And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. 23 He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had. 24a Then Jacob was left alone;*

1. His wealth had been offered to Esau.
2. His family exposed to danger and death.

B) Now What?

Genesis 32:24 *Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. 25 Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. 26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" 27 So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." 28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. 30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." 31 Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.*

1. Who or what in the world is this man?
2. Have to allow an inspired text explain this to us.

Hosea 12:2 *"The LORD also brings a charge against Judah, And will punish Jacob according to his ways; According to*

his deeds He will recompense him. 3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, And in his strength he struggled with God. 4 Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, And there He spoke to us- 5 That is, the LORD God of hosts. The LORD is His memorable name.

3. Jacob wrestled with an angel of God, in the form of a man.
4. God with His infinite power could have easily defeated Jacob.
5. Just touching the hip of Jacob caused his joint to be out of socket.
6. Jacob goes from fighting to pleading; from fighting God to clinging to Him.
7. Then God blesses Jacob.

***Genesis 32:27** So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." **28** And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." **29** Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.*

8. Jacob prevailed not by fighting God but by clinging to Him.

IV) Jacob and Esau's Reconciliation, **Genesis 33.**

A) Jacob's actions

1. Bows before Esau seven times

***Genesis 33:3** Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.*

2. Calls himself Esau's servant twice

***Genesis 33:5** And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said,*

"The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

Genesis 33:14 *"Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir."*

3. Refers to Esau as his "lord" four times

Genesis 33:8 *Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord."*

Genesis 33:13 *But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing are with me. And if the men should drive them hard one day, all the flock will die."*

Genesis 33:14 *"Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir."*

4. Speaks of seeing Esau's face as seeing the face of God

Genesis 33:10 *And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me."*

B) Esau

1. Came with a company to meet Jacob
2. Ran to meet him
3. Embrace Jacob
4. Fell on his neck
5. Kissed him

6. Offered the earlier present from Jacob, back to Jacob.
7. Offered to accompany Jacob
8. Offered to leave a protective guard to help Jacob
9. Used the term "my brother"

Genesis 33:9 But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."

10. Accepted Jacob's present.

C) The joy of reconciliation

1. Think of the Prodigal son in ***Luke 15***.
2. Jacob and Esau seemed to trying to out do one another in the forgiveness part.
3. Being kind hearted goes along way toward reconciliation.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Conclusion:

We all need to walk with a limp, it is the way a servant of God walks. A lot of people try to what they want by manipulation, decent, trickery. Often end up fighting God. Instead, we need to serve God and ask for His mercy and grace. We will receive the greater blessings.