

First Southern Baptist Church - 12-16-20

Jacob Wrestles with God - Genesis 32

Introduction

1. Note the names - Mahanaim - the place of two camps
Israel, Penuel
2. When he went to find a wife (20 years ago) he passed Bethel - there the ladder of God dream (Genesis 28)
-as he returns, here, the encounter with “a man”

I. Tell Esau We’re Coming (1-5)

1. Named the place “Mahanaim” - “two hosts” or “double camp”
-his camp and the camp of angels?
2. Has just escaped from FIL - now this group meets him?
3. Sound out Esau

II. Praying Ground (6-8)

1. Fear as praying ground???
2. Nothing could be so ominous as Esau’s silence and rapid approach - with 400 men
3. Greatly afraid and distressed
4. Strategies - divide the people
-at least some of them will get away
5. He is alone (24)

III. Jacob Prays (9-12)

1. In his shrewdness he can plan... but because he is vulnerable... he must pray
2. Parts to the prayer
 - A. Addressed to God - the God of the generations
 - B. Jacob affirms God’s past goodness (10)
-he knows the character of God is “hesed”
 - C. He asks God (11) for mercy - deliver
 - D. He holds only God’s promise of goodness
-I will do you good - 9
-I will surely do you good - 12
3. Notice, that he confesses his unworthiness - means he knows he is dependent on God’s grace/ mercy

IV. A Present for His Brother (13-21)

1. Two hundred she goats and two hundred he goats
Two hundred ewes
Twenty rams
Thirty camels with colts
Forty kine
Ten bulls
Twenty she asses
Ten foals

2. "A man's gift makes room for him" - Proverbs 18:16
3. Before me
 - in "droves" (19) - read chapter 33 for more information
 - four droves with a space between (16)
 - he did not come back to claim the double portion... he had enough
4. Commands (17)
 - a present
5. Jacob's fear... of his own making... birthed of his own guilt
 - no hint of remorse
 - the wrath of Esau, he would seem to see as warranted
6. Clearly "appeasement" (20)

V. His Wives and Children (22-23)

VI. Jacob Wrestled with God (24-29)

1. Left alone (24)
 - sent everyone else on ahead (22-23)
 - sent over all he had
2. A "man" - who is this?
 - can a man win if he wrestles with God?
3. He did not prevail with him
 - he came to a draw with God?
4. The wrestling match lasted all night
 - what parent does not know this prayer scenario?
5. Jacob's limp
 - touched the hollow of his thigh
 - out of joint
 - bears witness that this was no dream
6. Conversation
 - A. Bless me - let me go (26)
 - B. What is your name? - Jacob... to Israel (27-29)
 - Israel means "God strives" or "struggles"
 - Israel means "God rules" or "protects"
 - Israel means "Prince of God"
 - C. This IS his blessing.. in response to the request for a blessing, he gets a new name
 - D. Bold enough to ask God's name
7. In the morning God is gone... Jacob is gone...
 - only Israel remains
8. Results from the fight
 - A. A limp... so did Jacob win? (There is a cost from coming too close and asking for too much) - he gained new heights... he limps (the gospel says "blessed are the meek, THEY inherit the earth. The disciples want thrones, and authority, Jesus asks them about drinking His cup, being baptized with His death... and His cross
 - a lame person must now "lean" - God uses brokenness to bring

blessedness:

- 1) brokenness allows failure, so that success may belong to God
- 2) brokenness means crucifying the old man
- 3) brokenness brings desperation
- 4) brokenness confesses need

Cross before the **crown**

B. A new name

C. God wins - at any time He could've touched his leg and the contest be over
 -at any time He could've killed Jacob
 -He does not reveal His name
 -he only consents to be prayed to... does not have to answer

9. Jacob emerges...

-broken, named and blessed

VII. Jacob Named the Place (30-32)

1. Named the place "Penuel" - the "face of God"
2. Jacob's conclusion - I have seen God
3. Passed over
4. He is wounded for the rest of his life
 -this is the reason the children of Israel will not eat the "hollow of the thigh"
 (Not found in the Old Testament but is found in Rabbinic tradition)

Two Meetings

1. With the stranger... God (chapter 32)
2. With Esau - chapter 33