



## Living With a Glorious Limp: Discipleship, Jacob, and the Messiness of Life

**Lesson 8: Preparing for your Worst Nightmare** February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>st</sup> 2024

### **Observation. What does The Text Say?**

**Read Genesis 32:1-21**

1. What did Jacob name the place where he was met by the angels of God?
2. What was the message that Jacob wanted his brother Esau to hear? (**verses 4-5**)
3. When the messengers returned to Jacob, what news did they bring?
4. In what two ways did Jacob respond to the news?
5. The structure of Jacob's prayer included the following:
  - a. Name of his God? **vs. 9**
  - b. Command of God? **vs. 9**
  - c. Grace of God included? **vs. 10**
  - d. Petition asked of God? **vs. 11**
  - e. Promise of God? **vs. 12**
6. List all the gifts that Jacob had selected for his brother.
7. What effect did Jacob believe his gifts would have on Esau? (**verse 20**)



### **Interpretation. What Does the Text Mean?**

8. Why did God have his angels appear to Jacob at Mahanaim?

9. Why did Jacob have something to fear from his brother Esau? Refer to **Genesis 25:29-34; 27:41**

10. Why did Jacob divide his company into two camps?

11. In 2024, the gift of Jacob's flocks to Esau was worth an estimated total of **\$845,815<sup>1</sup>**. This was one way that God had blessed Jacob. Was this a true gift to his brother Esau, or was it a bribe to buy the favor of Esau? (Your answer will tell if Jacob's character had truly changed.)

### **Application. What is God Asking Me To Do?**

12. In your desire to see a significant relationship in your life restored, what positive elements from this story can you follow? What negative elements does this story caution you to avoid?

13. What are ways we can trust God with our fears if we aren't sure He's going to deliver us?

14. "If [you] were in Jacob's sandals and had prayed his prayer, would [your] livestock gift mean [you] were acting in faith or trusting your own efforts?"

15. We all have sinned intentionally to hurt someone in our past. What is God asking you to do about it? Or maybe you have dealt with the sin in a God-honoring way. What did you learn from the experience?