

Review:

Last week we came across the story of Jacob wrestling the Angel of the Lord. Jacob in his continued struggles had to have his hip dislocated prior to submitting. It is at this story we find the Lord Re-establishing with Jacob that he was going to give him a new start. A time when he would no longer be Jacob the supplanter, the deceiver, but rather Israel, the one who fights on the side of God.

This story related us because we also can be like Jacob. We continually live our life running from God and our true purpose in life. We make excuses for doing what we are not supposed to do, and making excuses for not doing what we are supposed to do. We live our Christian life with sacrifices that only seem to benefit us. Our prayer life is about us, our money is about us, our time is about us, we do our Christian walk like we are on a tube going down the salt river. Just cruising along doing the most minimal to satisfy our label of “Christian.” There comes a point in life whether believer or unbeliever where God

changes our name and reminds us that we will not win if we are fighting against Him.

We must become that new creation, that new person for Jesus Christ!

Jacob is now leaving the river Jacob with a new name and a new limp. Imagine explaining that to the family you just sent over the river that night. He is on his way to meet Esau, a brother he betrayed 20 years ago and stole his birthright.

JACOB MEETS ESAU

Genesis 33:1-20 Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants. (2) And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last. (3) Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

(4) But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. (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." (6) Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down. (7) And Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down. Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down. (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." (9) But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." (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. (11) Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." So he urged him, and he took it.

(12) Then Esau said, "Let us take our journey; let us go, and I will go before you." (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. (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." (15) And Esau said, "Now 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) And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, built himself a house, and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth. (18) Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city. (19) And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money. (20) Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel. **God is the God of Israel.**

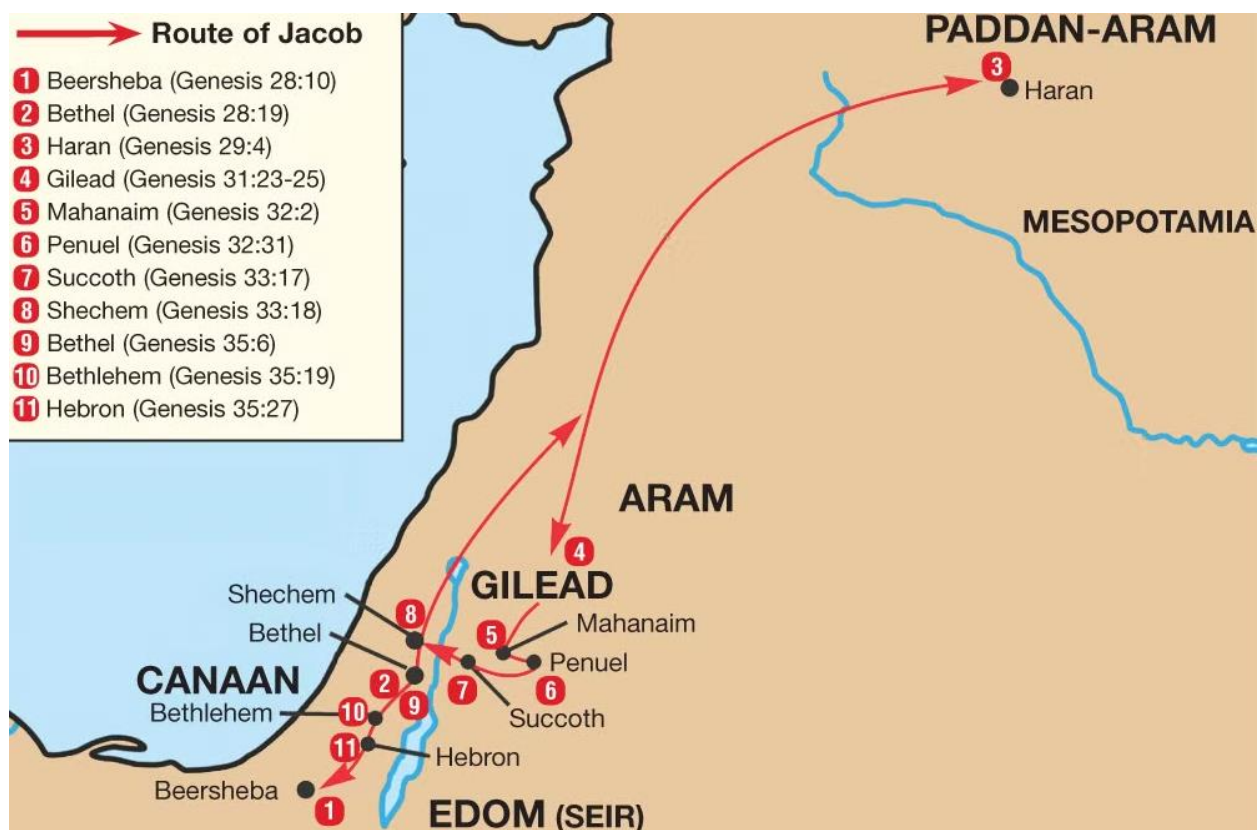
A) We see Jacob meeting Esau and it not being as bad as he thought it would be.

Is this not true with many of the things we worry about? Much of what we worry about do not turn out as we thought they would be.

1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, (7) casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

B) After introductions and a discussion on the acceptance of the gift given, Esau requests Jacob to accompany him down to Seir.

Jacob gives an excuse why he could not. Esau then requests that men stay behind to help. Again, Jacob refuses. Where God had called Jacob and where Esau was going was in two different directions. Jacob was smart.



Jacob not uniting with someone who did not hold his same purpose, values, and faith was smart.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? (15) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? (16) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL

BE MY PEOPLE." (17) Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU." (18) "I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY."

“It is not desirable to be too intimate with superior ungodly relations, who will expect us to join in their vanities, or at least to wink at them, though they blame, and perhaps mock at, our religion. Such will either be a snare to us, or offended with us.” - Matthew Henry 1690

Partnering and fellowshiping with those who do not carry the same faith and values with you will cause 1 or more of the following reactions:

- 1) They will expect you to join or at least turn a blind eye of their ways.
- 2) They may mock your ways.
- 3) They will cause a snare and make you or your family falter in their ways.

As we will learn in the next story:

Genesis 34:1-31 Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. (2) And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her. (3) His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman. (4) So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young woman as a wife."

(5) And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; so Jacob held his peace until they came. (6) Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.

(7) And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done.

(8) But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife. (9)

And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves. (10) So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it."

(11) Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. (12) Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and I will give according to what you say to me; but give me the young woman as a wife."

A) Shechem understood his wrong and wanted to do whatever he needed to do to make it right.

(13) But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and spoke deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister. (14) And they said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a reproach to us. (15) But on this condition we will consent to you: If you will become as we are, if every male of you is circumcised, (16) then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your

daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people. (17) But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone."

(18) And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son. (19) So the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. He was more honorable than all the household of his father.

(20) And Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and spoke with the men of their city, saying: (21) "These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For indeed the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters to us as wives, and let us give them our daughters. (22) Only on this condition will the men consent to dwell with us, to be one people: if every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised. (23) Will not their livestock, their property, and every animal of theirs be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell with us." (24) And all who went out of the gate of his city heeded Hamor and Shechem his son;

every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

(25) Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males. (26) And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out.

(27) The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled. (28) They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field, (29) and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses. (complete destruction)

(30) Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, (only 70 when they entered Egypt.)

they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I." (31) But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a harlot?"

A) While it is true in this story Hamor the ruler of Shechem seems to be a man who wanted to unite for either power and wealth or because he wanted to give his son what he wanted, it did not make him a bad person. He was trying to make right what his son did wrong. The behaviour of Simeon and Levi was not justified. The two would later have their sentenced pronounced:

Genesis 49:5-7 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place. (6) Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. (7) Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.

God's Solution:

Genesis 35:1-15 Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."

(2) And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments." (3) Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone." (4) So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem. (5) And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.



A) Put away your foreign gods, put on clean garments, purify yourselves.

James 4:4-8 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

(5) Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? (6) But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "GOD RESISTS THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

(7) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

(8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Genesis 35:(6) So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him. (7) And he built an altar there and called the place El

Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother. (8) Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the terebinth tree. So the name of it was called Allon Bachuth. (9) Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him. (10) And God said to him, **"Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name."** So He called his name Israel.

A) God was reminding Jacob again of his name. Sometimes in our lives we need to be told the truth more than once and be reassured by God.

(11) Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. (12) The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land." (13) Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him. (14) So

Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it.

(15) And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.