

Jacob Meets Esau (Genesis 33)
For the week of November 14, 2021

Read Genesis 33:1-3

Observation

Describe what is happening.

Interpretation

How long had it been since Jacob and Esau had last seen each other since chapter 28 (hint: see 31:41)?

Why did Jacob divide his family and why in this order?

What position did Jacob take (verse 3)? Is this different from Jacob's previous behavior? Why?

How did Jacob bow, what is the significance of bowing, and what is the significance of the number of times?

Application

How do you define fear?

Read these "fear not" verses. How do they give assurance?

Psalm 46:1-3

Isaiah 41:10

Isaiah 41:13

Matthew 10:31

Luke 12:32

When faced with a fearful situation, do you meet it with humility and respect? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 33:4-11

Observation

Describe the greeting of Esau to Jacob.

Compare and contrast these verses to Genesis 27:41.

Interpretation

Knowing that Esau was coming with 400 men seemed to be that he was going to fulfill what he had said he would do 20 years ago. What could have brought about the change of heart in both (Genesis 28:1-4, 12-15, 31:11-13, 24)?

How do you describe the speech, familial introduction, and gift exchange of the brothers in comparison with their past?

How do you define Jacob's statement, in verse 10, stating that seeing Esau's face "is like seeing the face of God"?

Application

How do you define forgiveness? How do you define Godly forgiveness? Are they different? Why or why not?

Does forgiveness take two (or more) people? Why or why not?

Is there someone you are struggling to forgive? How can God help you to be obedient in His command to forgive?



Read Genesis 33:12-20

Observation

Now that the brothers were reconciled, where did Esau want them to go?

Interpretation

Using the map above, where is Mt. Seir (Edom), and where is Shechem?

Was it wrong for Esau to want his brother with him in Seir? Was it wrong for Jacob to go to Seir? Why or why not? (See 31:3, 13).

Application

Has the fear of offending someone ever kept you from doing (or doing less than) what God directed?