



A Life of Wholeness, Part Two
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“Double Trouble: Assumptions and Expectations”
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Key Verses: Genesis 27, 32-33 and Luke 15:11-32

Key Thought: Beware of assumptions and expectations, which— when false or invalid— sow confusion and conflict in our relationships.

Points to Consider:

- Overview of Jacob and Esau's Conflict: Jacob swindles Esau, so Esau wants to kill Jacob. Jacob flees, and does not return for twenty years. As he returns, Jacob assumes that Esau still wants to kill him. However, Esau embraces Jacob!
- Likewise, the prodigal son assumes that the father would not welcome him, but the father embraces him! It is a false assumption that humans often make about God.
- Rather than assert your assumptions, check them! For example, “Can I check something? I was wondering if you are thinking... Is that correct?”
- Criteria for a Valid Expectation: A) It's conscious. B) It's realistic. C) It's expressed. D) It's agreed upon.
- We need God's grace, because we can't hope to avoid faulty assumptions or expectations in our own wisdom and strength.

Discussion Questions:

- Can you share an example of a false assumption that you've made about someone?
- Do you have an assumption about someone that might be false? What can you do to seek the truth about that person?
- Can you share an example of an invalid expectation that you have had of someone? Which of the criterion did it fail to meet?
- Which of the criterion do you tend to most neglect when forming expectations? What can you do to better meet that criterion?