

# Sermon Guide



## “Jesus, the True and Better Jacob”

September 17, 2023

“<sup>27</sup> And He said to him, ‘What is your name?’ And he said, ‘Jacob.’ <sup>28</sup> Then He said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel...’ ”

**Genesis 32:22-29**

- 1. Jacob pretended to be Esau to receive a blessing. After receiving the blessing, Jacob had to flee and ultimately remove his mask. JC said, “God will never bless who you pretend to be. Blessings gained by wearing a mask always become a burden.”** Have you ever pretended to be someone you aren’t in order to gain a blessing or favor? What did you learn in that season?
- 2. God wrestled with Jacob to confront Jacob’s deceitfulness. JC said, “God wrestled with Jacob, because God wrestles with those He loves.”** Have you experienced God wrestling with you? How did God wrestling with you ultimately demonstrate His love for you?
- 3. Jacob spent much of his life with the identity “the deceiver.” Eventually, God renamed him. JC explained that all of us believe identity statements about ourselves. We often spend our lives believing that identity without letting God speak into it.** Has God ever spoken a new identity over an old identity? What did God teach you about yourself? If you haven’t experienced this, has anything kept you from bringing your identity to Him?

**Take Your Next Step of Faith.** What next step of faith will you take in response to today’s teaching?