

Genesis 32:22-31

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions.

²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.

²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." ³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

Real Spirituality

How Real People Connect to God

Jacob's Prayer for Joy

Genesis 32:22-31

3/15/2020

A LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTER WITH GOD?

1. You must meet God **ALONE**.

2. You must meet God for **BLESSING**.

- Every single human being needs someone from the **OUTSIDE** to **BLESS** you.

3. You must meet God in **WEAKNESS**.

- There's not really a good way to learn the **LIMITS** of human capacity, and God's goodness, except through **DISAPPOINTMENT** and **SUFFERING**.
- If you are assured of God's acceptance, blessing, and love, it inflicts you with a permanent, **JOYFUL WEAKNESS**.
- Jacob held on at the **RISK** of his life to get the blessing for **HIMSELF**, but Jesus Christ held on at the **COST** of his life to get the blessing for **US**.



Jacob's Prayer for Joy

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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the [MTC App](#), or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](#).

GETTING STARTED

1. Take 1 minute per person to share, a time of “wrestling with God” that was a turning point where your faith became much more personal.

DIGGING DEEPER

2. **READ** Genesis 32:22-31

What does this story, teach you about God, or about people, or about prayer?

3. What is a way that someone can ask God directly for blessing in a **POSITIVE** way? What would be a **NEGATIVE** motivation for asking God for blessing, and why?

GETTING PERSONAL

4. What are some of the things you have tried to look to for “blessing” throughout your life... that have let you down?

5. Describe what you are like, and what your life is like, when you are getting your joy and your identity from God. Granted, you won't be able to experience that all the time, but what are couple things you can do to increase the frequency of living in and out of this truth?

BRINGING IT HOME

6. What are you wrestling with God about right now, and how can we pray for you?

7. In light of the passage, or what you've discussed, what is one way you'd like to take another step, or a next step?

Or...

What is one thing the Holy Spirit is leading you to do?

PRAY TOGETHER