

Stories of Desperation: Jacob

Genesis 32

“As the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter. He was an outdoorsman, but Jacob had a quiet temperament, preferring to stay at home.” Genesis 25:27

“Isaac loved Esau because he enjoyed eating the wild game Esau brought home, but Rebekah loved Jacob.” Genesis 25:28

“‘Your brother was here, and he tricked me. He has taken away your birthright.’ Esau exclaimed, ‘No wonder his name is Jacob, for now he has cheated me twice. First he took my rights as the firstborn, and now he has stolen my blessing.’” Genesis 27:35-36

“This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob’s hip and he wrenched it out of socket. Then the man said, ‘Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!’ But Jacob said, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me.’” Genesis 32:24-26

“The man asked, ‘What is your name?’ He replied, ‘Jacob.’ ‘Your name will no longer be Jacob,’ the man told him. ‘From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.’ ‘Please tell me your name,’ Jacob said. ‘Why do you want to know my name?’ the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there.” Genesis 32:27-29

Lessons:

- He wrestles with God when he is desperate and alone.
- He wrestles with God when there is nowhere to run.

Two Results from the wrestling match:

- He is blessed.
- He walks with a limp.

Jacob wrestles with God and he comes out of it both blessed and broken.