

Genesis 32-33 – 9 January 2020

“Humbled & Matured By Experience”

Introduction

Jacob used to build relationships by trickery

When he met God at Bethel, he had a conversion and began building bargaining relationships.

Jacob's life with God has been as a Carnal Christian

Jacob finally moved away from all that carnality.

He had matured greatly and is now headed back to the promised land of Canaan to fulfill his destiny

He's put Laban behind him, but still has Esau in front of him to contend with

Tonight, we'll see 5 marks of maturity in the life of Jacob.

Read Vs 1-2

1. We don't know much about their interaction but these verses.
2. As Jacob has been maturing, he's now been noticing the spiritual all around him.
3. Notice, they didn't just come and go, but they were **WITH** him.
 - a. Mahanaim – means 'double camp'.
 - b. This mature man now has a spiritual life.

1st Mark of the maturity in the life of Jacob is He's Seeking Peace (Chap 32:3-5)

Read Vs 3-5

1. Jacob's being proactive to seek it.
2. Seeking peace involves clear communication
3. *This is much more mature than Jacob was*
 - a. Gen 25 – He stole the birthright
 - b. He's was in for war, if got what he wanted

2nd Mark of the maturity in the life of Jacob is He's depending on God for deliverance from evil (Chap 32:6-12)

Read Vs 6-8

1. Esau, the one who last vowed to kill you, is coming to you!
2. This mature man is interested in saving lives.

Read Vs 9

1. We've seen God initiate with Jacob, but this the first we've seen Jacob initiate with God!

Read Vs 10

1. He declares his own sinfulness
2. He declares God's ability to bless/provide
3. This is the posture of asking for help: I'm not able and you are able

Read Vs 11-12

1. Asks for deliverance based on God's Word!!

2. *This is much more mature than Jacob was*
 - a. Gen 28 – He let his mom help him run away from Esau
 - b. He used to run from evil, now he can stand

3rd Mark of the maturity in the life of Jacob is He shows grace and a giving attitude (Chap 32:13-21)

Read Vs 13-21

1. The mature, humble man is willing to give of his own to please others.
2. Jacob finally doesn't see himself as better than others, but as a servant.
3. *This is much more mature than Jacob was*
 - a. Gen 29 – Jacob worked 7 yrs for Rachel, then said, 'Now give me my wife.'
 - b. He was always striving to get what he 'deserved'.
 - c. Now he's got a much looser grip on the things that are 'his'.

4th Mark of the maturity in the life of Jacob is He's depending on God for power to move forward (Chap 32:22-32)

Read Vs 22-24

1. So Jacob is alone.
 - a. Can't go back (Laban)
 - b. Worried to go ahead (Esau)
 - c. If Esau would kill him, at least the family is safe.
2. But it's not Esau that comes, it's the angel of the Lord!
3. He's been wrestling with the Lord, spiritually and mentally and NOW physically.
 - a. But Jacob is mature now, he's not fighting to get a carnal reward.
 - b. He fighting for a spiritual blessing

Read Vs 25-26

1. He's fighting to receive a spiritual blessing.
2. He's fighting to know he's on God's side!

Read Vs 27-28

1. No question that this is the Angel of the Lord or the very preincarnate Christ that he's contending with.
 - a. Read Hosea 12:3-5
2. *This is much more mature than Jacob was*
 - a. Gen 27 – Jacob fought and forged to steal the blessing of his earthly father.
 - b. Now Jacob fights to get the blessing of his Heavenly Father.
3. Humbled just to admit his name is “Jacob” or heal-catcher, Jacob is lifted up with a new name.
 - a. Israel = “Prince of God”

Read Vs 29-32

1. Notice vs 30b
 - a. I've been w/ God...and I'm not destroyed
 - b. I've been w/ God...and I'm still alive
 - c. I've been w/ God...and I'm still able to move forward!

5th Mark of the maturity in the life of Jacob is He gives God the credit (Chap 33:1-11)

Read Vs 1

1. Remember, Israel still doesn't know what Esau's intentions are (for good or evil)

Read Vs 2-4

1. And the relief is finally settling in for Israel.

Read Vs 5-11

1. Notice vs 5 – “God has graciously given me...”
2. Notice vs 11 – “God hath dealt graciously with me.”
3. Israel has gone from stealing to this.
4. *This is much more mature than Jacob was*
 - a. Gen 28 – Jacob used to negotiate (if God does this, then I'll do that)
 - b. He now recognizes everything valuable he has in life has been given to him by God.
 - c. Not b/c he stole it or even earned it.

...And now Israel finishes the journey home (Chap 33:12-20)

Read Vs 12-16

1. Israel with a tender herd and young children couldn't drive on as fast as Esau and his men.
 - a. So they needed to part ways here
 - b. This was the ultimate confirmation that Esau wasn't laying a trap for Israel back in Mt Seir or Edom.

Read Vs 17-20

1. Israel gets established in Shechem in Northern part of Canaan.
 - a. This region will be important for chapter 34
2. El-elohe-Israel – “A mighty God is the God of Israel”

Conclusion –

Today we've seen 5 Marks of Maturity in Jacob's life.

1. He's seeking peace
2. He's depending on God to deliver from evil
3. He shows grace and a giving attitude
4. He's depending on God for power to move forward
5. He gives God the credit

All this b/c Jacob was living in light of his own sinfulness and he was living in light of God's great goodness!