

## A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

The Magnificent Defeat  
Genesis 32:22-32

Slide 2:

Genesis 32:22-32 (ESV)

The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

Slide 3:

Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah

Bilhah (Rachel): Dan, Naphtali

Zilpah (Leah): Gad, Asher

Leah: Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah

Rachel (Finally): Joseph

Slide 4:

Genesis 31:20 (ESV)

And Jacob tricked Laban the Aramean, by not telling him that he intended to flee.

Slide 5:

Jacob burns through the men in his life, the women are bound to his dysfunction, and even the animals are manipulated.

Slide 6:

"Forgiveness flounders because I exclude the enemy from the community of humans even as I exclude myself from the community of sinners. But no one can be in the presence of the God of the Crucified Messiah for long without overcoming this double exclusion - without transposing the enemy from the sphere of the monstrous into the sphere of shared humanity, and oneself from the sphere of proud innocence into the sphere of common sinfulness."

Miroslav Volf

Slide 7:

Genesis 32:7 (ESV)

Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed.

Slide 8:

Jacob plans:

- 1) Break into 2 camps
- 2) Manipulate/control God
- 3) Sends offerings to Esau in waves
- 4) Send his immediate family back across the river

Slide 9:

Yacob is at the Yabbok and a man comes to Yabak Yacob.

Slide 10:

Jacob is literally fighting for his life

Slide 11:

Implications:

- 1) Identity of historical Israel
- 2) Identity of the N.T. church this event foreshadows
- 3) Our personal identity in Christ

## **B. GROUP DISCUSSION**

1) Read Genesis 30,31 and 32! If not, at least read Genesis 32:22-32. What do you know of this event? What is the significance of this event for Jacob, and therefore what is the correlation for us today?

2) There are two sides of Jacob. The deceiver and rebel whom God must break and oppose. But also the wounded Jacob who has been discounted that God wants to heal.

Explain the two sides of Jacob.

Explain the two sides of all of us.

3) How can you see those two sides in the wrestling match? Is God coming in as an enemy or friend? What does it mean that He comes in as both? How does this relate to how God deals with our own waywardness?

4) When Jacob runs out of plans he is forced into a "crisis of faith." This is his moment of coming to the end of himself.

Have you had a moment like that?

5) God did not wrestle Abraham like this. God did not need to discipline Isaac much at all. Jacob must be fought. What does this teach us about how God deals with the various personalities in our midst?

6) Explain how we see an accessible and weak, and even a defeatable Divinity at the cross. And yet we also see the greatest God of strength and power in the same moment.

We see humans "prevailing" at the cross, and God prevailing at the cross. Just noodle as a group some of the rich theological illustrations and comparisons from Jacob (Israel) wrestling with God, and humanity wrestling with God at Calvary.

7) Prayer and praise