

Sermon Questions & Verses

Shifting Fear: Jacob's Fear of Esau Genesis 32:1

1. Shifting circumstances in our lives can cause our balance of a right fear of God to swing more towards a fear of man. We must be attentive to our fears by allowing God to examine our hearts and reveal to us areas where we have developed this fear and may have sin that needs addressed in our life. Sit quietly with the Lord as you reflect on the Scripture below allowing God to reveal things that need surrendered and encouraging your heart in areas where you are submitted to Him.

Psalm 139:23-24; Proverbs 29:25; Matthew 10:28; John 12:42-43; 2 Corinthians 13:5

2. In our flesh, we will inevitably let down people at times. Circumstances will change and we will have to change the word we had given. We may say we will be somewhere at a certain time and show up late. We may commit to doing something and get sidetracked and forget or be distracted by something else. These human shortfalls can lead us to subconsciously at times doubt the promises of God will come through. We may also lack confidence in those promises because the path we are going on may not be a pleasant journey. But we can be sure, as the verses below remind us, that God's Word is always true.

Psalm 33:4, 119; Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 55:11; John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3. Jacob delivers a prayer worth imitating. It mirrors in many ways, the Lord's prayer (both included on the back) that Jesus gives the disciples when they ask Him to teach them to pray. This is the same prayer taught during the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew. Remember in prayer to acknowledge God relationally as our heavenly Father, not as a distant and uninterested party. Praise God and declare His glory to Him, thanking Him for what He has done and will do. Remember, as Jacob

did, the mercy and grace that God has shown us. Pray God's Word, reminding yourself of the truth in His promises. Then, boldy ask for the things that you need in accordance with the will of God approaching His throne with confidence.

Genesis 32:9-12; Matthew 6:5-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 5:14-15

The Lord's Prayer – Matthew 6:9-13 ESV

9Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

10Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

11Give us this day our daily bread,

12and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Jacob's Prayer - Genesis 32:9-12 NLT

9Then Jacob prayed,

"O God of my grandfather Abraham, and God of my father, Isaac—O Lord, you told me, 'Return to your own land and to your relatives.' And you promised me, 'I will treat you kindly.' 10I am not worthy of all the unfailing love and faithfulness you have shown to me, your servant. When I left home and crossed the Jordan River, I owned nothing except a walking stick. Now my household fills two large camps! 11O Lord, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children. 12But you promised me, 'I will surely treat you kindly, and I will multiply your descendants until they become as numerous as the sands along the seashore—too many to count.""