



TRANSFORMING TRUTH

Trends deceive. Traditions enslave. God's Truth transforms.

"Haunted Conscience"

From the Series,
"Jacob 180"

Genesis 32:1-21

Preached Sunday PM 5/18/14

Meadow Baptist Church

1. When God Forces Us to Ponder Our Past (1-6)

- a. Temporary relief without true release (1-2) - "Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. 2 And when Jacob saw them he said, "This is God's camp!" So he called the name of that place Mahanaim." **He had narrowly escaped Laban's wrath... but now comes Esau**
- b. Stolen position without sustaining power (3-5) - "And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, 4 instructing them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have sojourned with Laban and stayed until now. 5 I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight."

Because Jacob had gained his position through deceit, the power that came with the position had been withheld from him.

- c. Frightened recon without favorable results (6) - "And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and there are four hundred men with him."

2. When God Compels Us to Face Our Future (7-12)

- a. Jacob talks to himself (7-8) - " Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps, 8 thinking, "If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape."
- b. Jacob talks to his God (9-12) -

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- i. He spoke in faith (9) - " And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O Lord who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good..."
- ii. He spoke in gratitude (10) - "I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that You have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps."
- iii. He spoke in fear (11) - "Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children."
- iv. He spoke in hope (12) - "But You said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude."

3. When God Allows Us to Run Dry Our Resources (13-21)

- a. Jacob's over-the-top bribe (13-15) - "So he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, 15 thirty milking camels and their calves, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys."
- b. Jacob's overanxious control (16-20a) - "These he handed over to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me and put a space between drove and drove." 17 He instructed the first, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?' 18 then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a present sent to my lord Esau. And moreover, he is behind us.'" 19 He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, "You shall say the same thing to Esau when you find him, 20a and you shall say, 'Moreover, your servant Jacob is behind us."
- c. Jacob's overdue appointment (20b-21) - "For he thought, "I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterward I shall see his face. Perhaps he will accept me." 21 So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself stayed that night in the camp."