

Sermon 1-1-22

- Intro
- Honor Pastors
- Pray for them and the Church

Preface Story

- Jacob deceives Esau
- Jacob deceives his father Isaac
- Jacob is alone

Gen 28:13-15 – God speaks to Jacob

Gen 28:20-22 – Jacob's Deal with God

1. Deal with our fleshly nature

- Story - Fasting music and TV
- Jacob's enemy wasn't Esau, it was his own carnal fleshly nature
- Our nature moves toward self centered religion
 - Everything revolves around me
 - Modern teachings are all about me
 - Jesus' life was about us so our lives could be about Him

2. Let God wrestle it out of us

Gen. 32:22-30

- Story - Praying for Sarah

- Jacob was blessed because he let go of his momentary desires and placed his focus and need on Jesus
- Maybe - Paralyzed man Mark 2:1-12
- Jacob finally let go of what he wanted from God so God could finally get what He wanted from Jacob – We can do this for years
- Jacob couldn't fight anymore, he could only hold on
- The motive is to be closer, nothing else
- Our motives can blind our relationship with God
- He didn't want a need met, he wanted an encounter

3. Let God mark our lives

Gen. 32:31-32

- Story - Ryan & my Dad
- God kept Jacob even though Jacob didn't pursue God
- He was forever marked by God
- Jacob had a visible sign that something changed his life
- God will deliver us as a consequence of our pursuit

You can have two perfectly good legs and walk right into hell

“Forgiveness is the greatest miracle that Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessing and the most lasting results.”

(Wiersbe)