

Gn Pt 66-Beauty of Frgiveness(Gn33)

>>>We're in a vs-by-vs study of BkofGn

*Bec that's what we DO here at MBC

*We do vs-by-vs...expository B study

>So we've been stdying stry of Jcb&Esau

*How Jcb schemed agst his brother
Esau & stole his blessing

*Hw Esau thn plotted to murder Jcb

*Hw Reb sent Jcb (for own his safety)
to her brthr(uncle)Laban in Haran

*MAP

*& thn hw Laban gave Jcb "a dose of
his own medicine"

**By tricking him into marrying
his older daughter Leah

**Whn it was Rachel tht he loved

>>>Tdy—gonna see wht happens next

>>>>Which is all abt "forgiveness"

>Talk ab wht diff it makes in yur/my life

[READY?]

I- PASSAGE GEN 33

A.Let me quickly summarize ch's 30-31

1.Jcb serves Laban fr 20 yrs in Haran

2. During this time, he takes both
Leah & Rachel as his wives

3. & by his 2 wives/their 2 handmaids
 — Jcb has **11 sons & a daughter**

4. Gn 30:43-“& Jcb became exceedingly prosperous, & had large flocks of cattle & camels & donkeys”

5. Gen 31:3-“Thn the Lrd said to Jcb, ‘Go back, now, to the land of yur fthrs & to yur relatives(PL/ Cnaan) & I will be with U.’”

6. **BUT REM:** Esau is still *living* in PL

7. & last x they met—Esau = **kill him**

[OK—WE PICK UP NOW IN CHAP 32]

B. Gn 32:3-“ Then Jcb sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau.”

C. V. 6-“& the messengers returned to Jcb, saying, ‘We came to yur brother Esau, & he is coming to meet U accompanied by 400 (armed) men’”

D. V. 7-“Then Jcb was greatly afraid; so he divided the pple who were with him into 2 groups, saying, ‘If Esau comes agst one group & attacks it, then the other group will escape.’”

E. V. 9-“Thn Jcb prayed & said, “O Gd of

my fthr Abr, & Gd of my fthr Isaac,
 who told me to rturn to my country
 & my relatives, & U wld bless me.””

F. V. 10-“I am unworthy of all the grace
 & faithfulness which U hve shown to
 me—for with only my staff I crossed
 this Jordan River (ie, 20 yrs ago), &
 now I hve bcome two grps of pple.”

G. V. 11-“Deliver me, I pray, frm the
 hand of my brother Esau; for I fear
 him, tht he will come & attack me, &
 also the mothers with the c’reen.”

H. V. 12-“Fr U did say, ‘I will surely do
 good to U, & make yur descendants
 as the sand of the sea which is too
 great to be numbered.”

1.”But if Esau kills me & all my c’reen
 2.”Yur promise, O Gd, will fail!”

J. V. 13-“& so, Jcb spent the nite there.
 & frm the possessions he had with
 him, he selected a present fr Esau”

K V.14-“200 female goats, 20 male goats,
200 yng lambs & 20 rams, 30 milking
camels & their young, 40 cows & 10
bulls, 20 female & 10 male donkeys”

1. Jcb divided the animals into 3 grps
 2. & he told the men leading each grp
 3. V. 17-“Whn my brther Esau meets U & says, ‘To whm do U, & all these animals in front of U belong?’, thn U shall say, ‘They belong yur srvt Jacob, & they are a present sent by him to my lord Esau. & please know, tht Jcb is coming behind us
 4. So Esau got this greeting 3 diff x’s as he marched w/men twrds Jcb
- L. Gn 33:1-“Thn(ie, in AM) Jcb lifted up his eyes & looked, & behold, thre was Esau, coming with his 400 men”
- M. V. 3-“Thn Jcb walkd out to meet his brthr, bowing dwn to the grnd 7x’s (as a sign of respect & honor) until he came near to his brother.”
- N. V. 4-“Thn Esau [SAY] RAN to meet Jcb, & embraced him, & fell on Jcb’s neck, & kissed him--& they both wept.”
- ILLUST: I think this is one of the most touching scenes in all the WOG
- *I mn—can U get a feel for this?
- *Just imagine yur worst enemy ever

*With a grudge agst U fr ovr 20 yrs

*Hvng a reconciliation w/U like this

SAY: Maybe wht we see here=Esau merely responding to all gifts Jcb sent him

A: Gn 33:9-“Thn Esau said, ‘I hve plenty, my brthr. Let wht U hve be yur own”

*Wht we see here is not “bribery”

*Wht we see here is hrtfelt frgivnss

APPL: & B tells us--Esau & Jcb remained “friends” for the rest of their lives

II--SO WHAT?

A. As said: issue in these vss=frgvnss

B. & this is wht I want us to talk ab tdy

C. Bec sooner or later—whether we’re:

1. Male or female
2. Young or old
3. Rich or poor

D. All of us get hurt

E. & frgivnss=a way of respndng to hurt

F. It’s the way Bible tells us to respond

SAY: “Lon—tht’s nice—but why shld I?

*After wht they did to me...

*“Why should I forgive them?”

*”Just bec the BIBLE.. tells me to?”

A: “No—bec of WHY B tells us to” Watch:

G. Matt 18:23-“J said, ‘The Kingdom of Hvn may be compared to a certain, king, who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

1. V.24-“& a servant who owed him **10K talents** (over \$10 mill in tdy’s money) was brot to him.”

2.V. 25-“& since he did not hve the means to repay, his lrd comanded tht he be sold, along with his wife & c’ren & all he possessed, & repayment be made.”

3. V 26-“So the srvt fell to the grnd & prostrated himself before the king, saying, ‘Have patience with me, & I will repay U everything”

4. V. 27-“& the lord of the srvt felt compassion, & released him, & forgave all his debt.”

5. V. 28-“But tht srvt then went out & found a fellow srvt who owed him **100 denarii**(roughly few \$100’s); & he seized him & began to choke hm, saying, ‘Pay me wht U owe me’

6.This 2nd srvt beggd 1st one fr mercy,

using exact wrds he'd said to kng!

7. V. 30-"But he(1st srvt)was unwilling & went & threw him (2nd srvt) in prison until he shld pay back wht was owed."

8. V. 32-"Whn the kng heard wht had happened, he summoned the 1stsrvt & said to him, 'U wicked srvt! I forgave U all yur debt bec U begged me to"

9. V. 33-"Shld U not've had mercy on yur fellow srvt, in the same way that I had mercy on U?"

H. Let's identify the players in J's story

#1-Who is the "king"? **GOD**

#2-Who's srvt who owed **\$10 mill?**

*WELL HELLO!! If U're a F=U/me!

*We owed Gd debt we cld nvr pay

*A "sin debt"

*& yet(V.27)-"Gd felt compassion, & released us, & (thru J's work on the cross) forgave **ALL** our debt"

*Col 2:14-"Gd cancelled our debt...

& took it out of the way...[SAY]

having nailed it to the cross"

#3-Who's the srvt tht owed **\$100**

*Everybody else the in wrld...who

*No mtr hw much they sin agst us

*It's a drible/pittance by cmparison

J. & so--wht's the **PT** of J's stry? **It's this:**

1. "How dare WE (as F's)...refuse to forgive anybody ...fr anything

2. In light of hw much **J's** frgvn us

K. SO—"Why shld I frgive othr pple?"

1. Well—if U're not a brn-again FOC, I'm not sure I can give U an all-compelling_rsn

2. But if U ARE a FOC--I sure can

3. Col 3:13--"Forgive others--just as the Lrd forgave U."

4. Recipients of Gd's mercy are expected to pass it on!

5. This is the **command** of Alm Gd

ILLUS: REM: Ptr asked J (Mt 18:21)-"Lrd, how often shall my brother sin agst me, & I forgive him? Up to 7x's?"

APPL: (Mt 18:22)-"J replied, 'I do not say to U up to 7x's, but up to 70 x's 7'"

*"Afr evrthng I've forgiven U fr, Ptr

*"U're nvr to stop frgving others"

SAY: "So Gd's asking me just to pretend
like all tht hurt they did didn't hppn?"

A: NO—rem the definition of frgvness

*"It was not OK then(U hurt me/
cut me deep/no excuse fr wht...)

*"But in obed to Gd—I'm willing to
declare—that-it's OK now"

SAY: "Wht if my feelngs jst arn't thre yet?"

A: Tht's OK—bec forgiveness is an act of
our will—not our feelings

*When we obey Gd with our will ...

*Gd sees to it tht our feelings follow

SAY: "But wht if tht prsn nvr asks me to
forgive them?"

A: Well—certainly it's easier if they do

*But Gd's cmmnd in Scripture fr us to
frgve othrs-nvr requires tht thy ask

*This is why Rm 12:18—"As much as it
lies with U, be at peace w/all men

*As F's..WE can forgive pple & be at
peace with thm in our heart...

**Whther they ever ask for it

SAY: "Lon, I'm not sure I can"

A: With HS's help/pwr--O yes U can!

*Gd'll nvr ask us to do anything tht

He won't give us the pwr to do

*MY MOM—

*If Gd cld give me pwr to frgive her..

He can give U pwr to frgive anybdy

CONCLUSION

>>>>The most beautiful/liberating 3
words in the Eng lang = "I FORGIVE U"

*There's more pwr in these 3 wrds
for healing the hmn heart...

*Both on part of the frgiver/frgivee

*Thn in all the psychology textbooks
ever written

>>>>& for many of us here today...

*This is the great need of our souls

*To forgive the pple who've hurt us

**In obed to Gd/as an act of will

*So tht we can heal...put it behind
us...& move on with our lives