

The Life of Jacob

Part - 4

When We Stop Running – We Can Turn to God

Genesis 32:1–12

Key Theme

Jacob spent years running—from conflict, from consequences, and from his calling. In Genesis 32, God brings him to a place where running ends and real prayer begins. Jacob finally turns to God for answers instead of depending on himself.

I. GOD REMINDS JACOB HE IS NOT ALONE

Genesis 32:1–2

- The angels of God meet Jacob.
- He names the place **Mahanaim** — “two camps.”
- God shows Jacob: *Your camp is small, but Mine surrounds you.*
- Before confronting Esau, God confronts Jacob with **His presence**.

NOTES:

II. JACOB REVERTS TO OLD HABITS BEFORE HE RETURNS TO GOD

Genesis 32:3–8

- Jacob sends gifts, messages, strategies — trying to fix the situation himself.
- Esau comes with **400 men**, and Jacob panics.
- Fear exposes Jacob's flesh-driven thinking.
- He divides the camp, relying on planning rather than prayer.

NOTES:

III. JACOB FINALLY TURNS TO GOD — HIS FIRST REAL PRAYER

Genesis 32:9–12

- Jacob acknowledges God personally:
“**The LORD who said unto me...**”
- He confesses his unworthiness:
“I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies...”
- He cries out honestly:
“Deliver me... for I fear him.”
- He stands on God's promise:
“Thou saidst, I will surely do thee good.”

NOTES:

IV. WHEN WE TURN TO GOD, HE REMINDS US OF HIS PROMISES

Genesis 32:12

- God's covenant didn't change—Jacob's confidence did.
- Jacob finally trusts God's Word rather than his own schemes.
- Faith is not the absence of fear...
Faith is bringing fear to a faithful God.

NOTES:

Closing Takeaways

- ✓ God brings us to the end of ourselves so we will come to Him.
- ✓ Running delays restoration; prayer begins transformation.
- ✓ God's presence surrounds us long before His plan unfolds.
- ✓ When we finally turn to God, He strengthens us with His promises.