

Let's Worship God

6th-11th February 2023
Genesis



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Monday - Genesis 31:43-55 - Two Men Who Don't Trust Each Other

After Jacob's outburst against Laban, Laban is left with nothing really to say. He can't justify himself or blame Jacob. He probably feels guilty for what he has done, but other than claiming one last time that all Jacob has is rightfully Laban's, making himself the victim once again, he just doesn't want to talk about things anymore.

Laban proposes a covenant to Jacob to which, for the sake of peace between the families, Jacob agrees. Jacob is required to be a good husband and marry no one else. Jacob is to forgive and forget any wrongs he may have received and not take revenge against either Laban or his family. Laban is just required to leave Jacob alone from now on. They raise a heap of stones as a memorial to remind themselves of the covenant they have made, and they offer sacrifices to God. We can only truly be at peace with our friends when we are first at peace with God. They eat together to show that they are at peace. Finally, they call on God to be their witness and judge. Back of all their nice words and actions, these are two men who don't trust each other - and with good reason. So, they both know that only the fear of God will keep them each honest to their part of the covenant. So, they call on God to keep an eye on both of them to make sure that they don't cheat the other. They also ask God to judge between them and punish whoever does wrong. This is a covenant between two men who've finally decided to leave each other alone. But it is also a covenant between two men who understand how sinful they are and are calling on God to save them from themselves.

Questions

1. What is Laban's response to Jacob's outburst?
2. What does Laban suggest?
3. What are the conditions of the covenant?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would ask God to save us from ourselves.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28

Praise: Psalm 133 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Genesis 32:1-8 - Out of the Frying Pan into the Fire

Jacob, having finally got clear of Laban, continues on home, probably much relieved. On the way angels of God meet him almost as if to welcome him home to Canaan and to show that God has been caring for him all along whether he can see it or not. When God is going to send us great trials, He often sends us great comforts first that we can think upon when the trials come. Jacob will be able to remember these angels and be comforted knowing he is in the hands of a powerful and caring God.

Now that Jacob has left Laban and his troubles there behind, his thoughts would have gone ahead to how things were at home. Especially how things are with Esau, the brother who wants to kill him. What is he going to do? He wants to see his father and mother, but he dreads to see his brother. So, he send Esau a message to tell him that he is returning, and perhaps to find out what Esau thinks of him now. The message is very humble and respectful because Jacob is anxious to make peace.

But for Jacob things seem to go from bad to worse. He has escaped from the anger of Laban, only to be told that his brother and 400 men are marching to meet him, presumably to go to war against him. It appears that 20 years of absence hasn't changed Esau's mind or heart, and Jacob is terrified. Where is God's protecting hand now?

Questions

1. What does Jacob see in a vision?
2. What does Jacob send and tell Esau?
3. What is Esau's reaction?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's protection of us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28

Praise: Psalm 134 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Genesis 32:9-12 - Prayer

Jacob has been told by God to return to Canaan. But now his brother Esau is coming towards him with a small army. Jacob must have wondered if God has brought him out of Laban's house safely to have him be killed by his brother. In this time of trouble, he doesn't look to himself and his solutions, but he does the only thing anyone really can do in trouble - pray. Times of fear should be times of prayer.

Jacob prays that God will deliver him from Esau. This is an impossible thing, but God often makes the impossible possible. When we pray, we can pray for our specific difficulties - we are free to speak to our God. Jacob does not call God his own God, but humbly calls him the God of his fathers. He doesn't want to presume, but he knows God works in families - caring for all in the covenant family as they are faithful to Him. He reminds God that he is just obeying what God has said. Obedience can sometimes lead us into trouble, but we must trust God with our safety. Jacob knows he is not worthy to receive any help from God. Do we realise how unworthy we are for any notice by God? But Jacob knows as well how merciful God is, and so he has hope in praying to God. God has greatly blessed Jacob, and Jacob is quick to thank God, but now he desperately prays for deliverance from Esau. He falls back on the promises of God made to him - promises of help, protection, prosperity, an inheritance, and a special relationship with God. The best we can say to God in prayer is what He has said to us. God's promises, read in His Word, should guide our prayers and give us hope, as they did for Jacob.

Questions

1. What does Jacob do when he hears that Esau is coming?
2. How does Jacob view himself?
3. What does Jacob ask God for?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would turn to God with humble thankfulness in prayer.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28

Praise: Psalm 135 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Genesis 32:13-23 - Pacifying Esau

Jacob has turned to God in prayer for deliverance from Esau. Now he comes up with a plan to pacify his brother. When we have prayed to God for help, we must then make an effort, using the means God has provided, to get rid of our problems. Otherwise, we presume and test God when we pray and sit back waiting for the solution to fall out of the sky, when God gives us the means to help ourselves.

Jacob sends Esau a very expensive present in order to pacify him - over 550 animals! This is evidence of how greatly God has blessed Jacob that he can spare so many. It also shows Jacob's wisdom that he will part with some to keep from losing the rest to war. Greed usually loses more for men than it ever gets them. Jacob thinks that this present will be acceptable to Esau, and he hopes that by it, he will win Esau's favour. Jacob sends a very humble message to Esau. He is careful to tell him that he is still coming, so that Esau will not think that Jacob has fled in fear.

We should never despair of reconciling ourselves to others until we have tried, even to those who have been most exasperating. The cost of peace is often worth it.

Questions

1. What does Jacob do when he finishes praying?
2. What does he send Esau?
3. Why does he send Esau a gift?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would use the means God has given us to serve Him.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28

Praise: Psalm 136 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Genesis 32:24-32 - Wrestling With a Man

We have in these verses the amazing story of how Jacob wrestles with a Man who is the Lord Jesus Christ and wins (but only because Jesus let him). Jacob has sent his family away, possibly to spend more time in prayer. It is good for us to be always praying. As he is alone, a Man comes and takes hold of him, and they wrestle. Hosea 12:4 tells us that as he wrestles with God, Jacob weeps and begs for His favour. So, this isn't just a physical wrestling, but a spiritual wrestling with prayers and tears as Jacob pleads with God for His help. Amazingly, we too can wrestle with God in prayer, and He allows us to win.

Jacob struggles a long time, but he does not give up. His faith is not shaken nor are his prayers silenced by any opposition. But this is not his own strength, but strength given to him by God. We are only able to continue in faith, prayers, and patience through God giving us the strength to do so. The Man dislocates Jacob's hip to show him what He can do and that it is God he is wrestling with. Wrestling believers may obtain glorious victories, and yet come off with broken bones.

The Lord asks Jacob to let Him go, as the day is coming and Jacob has much to do. Our time spent with God must sometimes give way to the necessities of life. However, our problem isn't usually spending time with God to the neglect of other things, but hardly ever spending time with God. God changes Jacob's name to Israel and blesses him. Jacob names the place Peniel not to brag about victory but to say that by God's grace he saw God and escaped with his life. The sun rises on the limping man who spent the night struggling with God until he received the blessing of being the father of the twelve tribes of God's people Israel.

Questions

1. Who did Jacob wrestle with?
2. What was his name changed to?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would become people who wrestle with God in prayer.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28

Praise: Psalm 137 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



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Saturday - Genesis 33:1-4 - A Tearful Reunion

After spending the night wrestling with God, you can almost imagine that Jacob is too exhausted to care what happens with Esau. In prayer he has given his case to God, the worry and fear are gone, and he looks ahead to Esau coming with simple trust that God will do what is best.

Jacob then puts his family into the best order he can to receive Esau, whether he comes as friend or enemy. He puts Rachel and Joseph, the ones he loves the most, the farthest behind him, so they will be the safest. Esau with his 400 men looks very big and dangerous; Jacob with all his women and children under his care looks weak, but he is the better man taking great care of his household.

Jacob bows to Esau showing him respect. The way to recover peace where it has been broken is to do our duty, being respectful, as though it has never been broken. Remembering and repeating things only makes everything worse. A humble attitude will go a long way towards turning away wrath.

Esau embraces Jacob, putting everyone's fears to rest. He is no longer angry with Jacob, but he loves him as a brother. Jacob's prayers to God have been answered. God holds the hearts of all men in his hands, and in ways unseen to us, can change them so easily. So, it is completely worthwhile to pray to God in our trouble, and we so often find the answer much better than we ever expected.

Questions

1. How does Jacob care for his household?
2. Why does Jacob put Rachel and Joseph last?
3. How does Jacob greet Esau?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Genesis 32:28

Praise: Psalm 138 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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