

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

God's Plans > Our Expectations - Genesis 32:1-32 - "Wrestling with God"

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. Have you ever found yourself in a desperate situation?
How did you navigate the situation; did you immediately turn to the Lord or did you seek solutions on your own?
As you look at Jacob's actions, particularly in the first 23 verses of Genesis 32, how does he respond to his desperate situation?
Was his fear revealing a sinful lack of trust in the Lord, or was his concern justifiable given his history with Esau?
Do you see Jacob's actions after praying (huge gifts for Esau) to be indicative of prudence or a lack of faith?
3. Read Jacob's prayer to the Lord in verses 9-12.
How does his prayer to the Lord reveal a humble disposition toward the Lord & an understanding of who God is?
As Jacob pleads with the Lord to intervene on His behalf, what does He appeal to in the Lord?
Do you believe it is manipulative of Jacob or sincerely right for him to appeal to the promises God has made to him?
What other passages of Scripture support your perspective of his actions here?
4. As you consider Jacob's wrestling match that is recorded in verses 24 and following.
What support do you find for this wrestling match being with God Himself, and not some strange man?
Why does that matter? (consider the actions taken, the words exchanged, and the result from them all)
Why is the name change of Jacob to Israel so significant to the man personally, and to his descendants beyond?
How does this name change represent a new identity for this man?
How does this parallel the work God does in the lives of all who trust in Jesus? (**think of our benediction - 2 Cor. 5:17, 21*)
How does Jacob's perseverance for a blessing even after his hip was displaced lead us to cling to the Lord even through pain?
5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
What can we learn from Jacob today?
 1. **We're helpless & desperate for God to save!**
We need God's intervention on our behalf!
 2. **We must see our unworthiness before God!**
Humility is the only acceptable posture for us!
 3. **We persevere & cling to Christ even in pain!**
We hold fast to Jesus for He is faithful & good!
 4. **God has given us a new identity & life in Him!**
We live in light of who we are in Christ Jesus!