

# Genesis 32-34 - Lesson 39

## Jacob and Esau Reconcile

### 1. Gen 32:1-21 - Jacob Returns to the Land

- a. Angels are in constant with Jacob, here God's host welcomes him back to the land
- b. "that I may find grace" - 8x he calls him "lord", 5x he uses "grace", 4x "servant"
- c. "my lord" - Jacob's perspective has changed since the days of usurping Esau
- d. 9-12 - Jacob's first prayer shows his change: "I am not worthy" (only 3 people say it)
  - i. 2x grace shows up before it is with Noah, and Lot, two times of destruction.

### 2. Gen 32:22-32 - Jacob Wrestles with God

- a. Jesus also stayed up all night "wrestling" with God in prayer - Lk 6:12, 22:41-44
- b. "wrestled" - this is a physical struggle, and Jacob is strong; but God's lesson is to show Jacob his strength is not in his flesh, but in his clinging to God in weakness
- c. Israel = thou hast prevailed with God, not in his flesh, but by his supplication
- d. Israel prevails with God and men; the church in contrast has no strength - Rom 5:6
- e. This night transforms Jacob from smart supplanter, to the crippled prince Ge 27:36
- f. Hos 12:3-4 Israel is reminded of this when they face a similar struggle (Hos 14:2)

### 3. Gen 33 - Jacob Meets with Esau

- a. Similar to the response of the prodigal son's father - a picture of reconciliation
- b. Esau has changed from when he was younger as well - Gen 27:41 and Ge 28:9
- c. How do relationships get restored/reconciled? Grace. From one person.
  - i. Esau did not require Jacob to give him presents.
  - ii. Jacob did not presume Esau should forgive him.
- d. Grudges should not be harbored. Take the wrong. Forgive. Give grace.
  - i. Remove pride - Become the servant not worthy.
    1. Meet/admit your failure as Jacob did. (Prov 13:10)
  - ii. Respect the other - Esteem them better than you (Phil 2:3-4, 1 Cor 13:4-5)
  - iii. Give grace first - Jacob did not presume it. Grace doesn't expect.
- e. 33:10 - "face of God" - both in Gen 32, but also the grace Esau showed him in return
  - i. Jacob dwells in peace in Shechem, where Abram met God in the land.

### 4. Gen 34 - Dinah and Shechem

- a. Jacob has learned, his sons have not. We see revenge affecting their futures.
  - i. God is not mentioned at all in Genesis 34.
- b. Why did Dinah go out to see the daughters of the land? cf. Gen 26:34-35
- c. 34:7 - "ought not to be done" - b/c of their covenant with God
- d. 34:9 - "give us your daughters, take our daughters" - forbidden under law De 7:3
- e. 34:11 - Shechem is looking for grace, because he loves her, but he doesn't get it.
- f. Some things are not bought and sold, but are valued higher: women and truth
- g. "deceitfully" - They insulted God's covenant, used it as a means of vengeance
- h. Simeon and Levi (Dinah's brothers) slay the men in evil anger - Gen 49:5-7
- i. Jacob was not the wrongdoer here, but his sons - Deu 32:25, Nah 1:2, Rom 12:19