Sermon Notes July 5, 2020

**Hope in the God who wrestles**

**Genesis 32:22-32**

22   The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of theJabbok. **23** He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. **24** And Jacob was left alone. Anda man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. **25** When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. **26** Then he said, “Let me go, for the day has broken.” But Jacob said,“I will not let you go unless you bless me.” **27** And he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” **28** Then he said,“Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, foryou have striven with God andwith men, and have prevailed.” **29** Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said,“Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. **30** So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “ForI have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.” **31** The sun rose upon him as he passedPenuel, limping because of his hip. **32** Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip on the sinew of the thigh.

**1. The prelude to the main event**

**Genesis 31:3**

**3** Then the LORD said to Jacob,“Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you.”

**Genesis 32:9-12**

**9**  And Jacob said,“O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD whosaid to me, ‘Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,’ **10**I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. **11** Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, forI fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. **12** Butyou said, ‘I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’”

**2. Losing to win**

**Job 5:17-18**

**17**“Behold,blessed is the one whom God reproves;

 thereforedespise not the discipline of theAlmighty.

**18** For he wounds, but hebinds up;

 heshatters, but his hands heal.

**Hebrews 12:10-11**

**10** For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good,that we may share his holiness. **11**For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yieldsthe peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

**Proverbs 27:6**

**6** Faithful arethe wounds of a friend;

**3. Trusting Jesus in our pain**

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

**9**  But he said to me,“My grace is sufficient for you, formy power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so thatthe power of Christ may rest upon me. **10**For the sake of Christ, then,I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. Forwhen I am weak, then I am strong.

**Hosea 12:4a**

**4**He strove with the angel and prevailed;

 he wept and sought his favor.

**Galatians 2:20**

**20** I have beencrucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who livesin me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,who loved me andgave himself for me.

*In preparation for this message Pastor Martin is grateful for Bruce Waltke, James Montgomery Boice, and Robert Alter.*

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