



Message #3:

"Are You Ready To Rumble?"

Scriptures and Devotions for June 21-27

Monday, June 22 Read Psalm 121

This is a wonderful and familiar psalm of trust, hope and confidence. Of course, one of the risks of familiarity is that we can miss its deeper meaning and get lost in the poetry. How well does this psalm truly express *your* experience with God? _____

How is that a part of your own witness and faith story? _____

Take a moment to list some places where God has come to your aid, shielded and sheltered you and strengthened your trust.

Tuesday June 23 Read Genesis 31:1-21

There is probably a bit of sly humor on the part of the Hebrew writers of this ancient story when Rachel steals Laban's household gods, mocking the uselessness of those idols and how unworthy they are of worship (hence Rachel's blasphemous sitting on them in v.34-35!). But remember God is still barely known at this early stage by Jacob, much less Rachel so it's not surprising that she takes the only source of divine aid she's ever known. What things (Jobs? Possessions? Even family?) do we invest with the ability to keep us safe, even when we know they can't? _____

Are You Ready to Rumble?

June 21, 2020

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-32

1. God comes to us to wrestle with Him so that...

A. ...we will be honest with Him and ourselves.

B. ...we will come to know Him better

2. Such a struggle leaves permanent marks.

Why do we do this still? _____

How can we consciously put God in their place? _____

Wednesday, June 24 Read Genesis 31:22-55

Throughout Jacob's years in Paddan Aram, he and Laban took turns cheating one another. When Jacob and his family fled, Laban came after him, and the two were left in a stalemate. Unable to trust one another, they built a mound to keep them apart. The covenant between Jacob and Laban further solidified Jacob's identity as 'deceiver.' Still a schemer, Jacob's time in Paddan Aram was marked by the heap and pillar he and Laban set up—a constant reminder that they could never get past their own selfishness. What does the story of Jacob teach us about facing our own selfishness?

Where are *you* in this story? _____



"Are You Ready to Rumble?"

Thursday, June 25 Read Genesis 32:1-32

Note the juxtaposition of Jacob's attempt to control the situation by bribing his brother and his utter brokenness at God's hands. What does this story tell us about God? _____

What does it say about humanity in general and what might it say about your own experience with God? _____

Where are you currently wrestling? Why? _____

Friday, June 26 Read 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

The walk of faith is a ceaselessly active one requiring us to study, search, practice, teach and often struggle. Truly we are "Israel" (see Genesis 32:28). Yet we are always tempted to wander off and find the easy path...to have "itching ears." Where do you find yourself most plagued by this problem? _____

How are you being faithful and persistent in living a life that proclaims where your faith truly is? _____

Saturday, June 27 Read Psalm 119:97-104

Reflect on the psalmist's passion to know God better through God's Word. How much (or how little!) does this reflect your own passion to grow in your relationship, knowledge and ministry? Why or why not? _____

Discuss this with God in prayer today.

