

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

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PART 24: WRESTLING WITH GOD

THE MINDSET OF JACOB

Jacob journeyed to faith. **Hebrews 11:21**

Jacob represents the “every day man” and narrowly passed another hurdle in his life of avoiding being killed by his uncle and father-in-law. His daily concerns were now filled with getting food and water for the people and animals and evading attack by local tribesmen. Then he faced the unpleasant event of meeting his brother, Esau, who had vowed to kill him. **Matthew 6:25-34**

REMAKING JACOB

The Gospel of Matthew had not been written at this time and it would be another 2,000 years before Jesus would come down and walk on earth and die on the cross and then be resurrected. Therefore, God had to make special preparations to transform Jacob from a liar and conniver to a man of God. Jesus set forth the practice of reconciliation and living in forgiveness. **Matthew 5:21-26**

In remaking Jacob, the first thing that God taught him was to think and live in the supernatural. **Genesis 32:1-2**

Jacob also realized that he needed to reconcile with Esau. **verses 3-5**

Esau sent a message back to Jacob that he would meet but responded that he would be bringing 400 armed men because he did not trust Jacob and did not want to be tricked a second time. **verse 6**

This put great fear into Jacob and he was not sure what the outcome of this meeting would be and in fear prepared himself by trying to bribe Esau to forgive him. **verses 7-8**

This fear greatly improved Jacob’s prayer life. **verses 9-12**

Jacob prepared the bribe. **verses 13-21**

WRESTLING WITH GOD

The Lord wanted to be alone with Jacob as he pressed in with God to make sure that he had covered all angles. The Lord was ready for him and it was Jesus that met him that night in a wrestling match that forever changed Jacob’s thinking. **verses 22-29**

He walked with a limp for the rest of his life as a sign of his meeting with Jesus. **verses 30-32**



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RECONCILIATION WITH ESAU

Jacob was not sure if there would be bloodshed, and in the division of his family, we can see the value he placed upon his family as the two concubines and their children were sent to the front, Leah followed with her children while Rachel and Joseph were kept in the rear. **Genesis 33:1-2**

But God had moved upon Esau, and instead of a showdown, the two brothers burst into tears upon seeing each other and were reconciled. **verses 3-4**

Even though the brothers were reconciled, Jacob did not want to travel together with his brother, nor did he want Esau's armed men to be mixed with his people. **verses 12-16**

SETTLING IN CANAAN'S LAND

Jacob returned to the land God had directed his grandfather Abraham to sojourn in. This was not his final destination but at this time he had no knowledge that one day he would move to Egypt where his son Joseph would be the prime minister. He knew at this point in his life to be content and establish a regular worship of the living God. **verses 17-20**

CLEANING OUT THE IDOLS

God had cleaned up Jacob, but his family was still loaded with pagan worship and house gods of all kinds. In order for God to continue his work with Jacob, his family and the servants, they needed to give up their idol worship and surrender to the almighty God. **Genesis 35:1-3**

But Jacob did not go all the way with God, and instead of destroying the idols, he hid them in the ground and opened his family to demonic activity which would ultimately lead to so much strife that Joseph was sold as a slave and taken to Egypt. **verse 4**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?