

Waiting and Wrestling > Genesis 32:1-32

32:1-8 While Jacob is finally free from Laban’s clutches, he still has another potential foe to face: his brother Esau, who had been planning to kill him when they were last together.

32:9-12 Realizing that Esau is on the way with four hundred men, Jacob does all he can: he splits up his group to try to protect them and then goes to the Lord in prayer – a prayer depending (finally!) not on Jacob’s strength, but on God’s.

32:13-21 During the night, Jacob sends even more gifts to Esau in an attempt to change his brother’s mind.

32:22-32 That same night, Jacob sends his family across the river. When he is alone is when a “man” wrestles with him. The match goes on all night before this supernatural man wounds Jacob – and also blesses him. Jacob now realizes that this man is (in some sense) God. The change is complete when God renames Jacob to Israel.

Context: Jacob’s life has been one of constant striving with the Lord – he is the recipient of God’s promises (first given to Abraham), yet he has rarely seemed to live up to them.

Aim: To be blessed by God is to be marked and called out by Him – and with Jacob, that encounter with the Lord will be one that changes him physically and spiritually.

Gospel: We need not be afraid of weakness – just like with Jacob or Paul, when we are weak then the Lord’s strength is what shines through. Thank Jesus for His strength to save you and prepare a place for you!

Applications: Trust in God’s strength, not in your own.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
