

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"If God Be For Us"
Genesis 32:1-23
Study-59

Genesis 32:1-12, 22-23

"Between a rock and a hard place"

With Laban behind him and no going back. Esau in front of Jacob. Jacob is now in the middle, what can he do?

7 Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed;
Romans 8:31 If God is for us, who is against us?

Jacob's enrolled in the School of Faith. Jacob learned in **Bethel** to **believe** (Salvation), and now in **Jabbok**, it is Jacob's **behavior** (Sanctification) that is dealt with.

Thought Of Our Passage: "God Wants Every Believer To Surrender All Things To Him Which Includes The Surrendering Of Ourselves"

- 1. Verses 1-2 Messengers Of God:**
- 2. Verses 3-8 Messengers Of Man:**
- 3. Verses 9-12 Fear Of God:**
- 4. Verses 13-23 Fear Of Man:**

1. Verses 1-2 Messengers Of God:

Genesis 32:1 Now as Jacob

Context - Jacob had given 20 years of his life to Laban, his father-in-law. Jacob had to learn to serve before he could be served. God told him to return **Genesis 31:3**

Jacob did the right thing the wrong way! He left without telling Laban. Laban caught up and determined to make a covenant at **Mizpah**.

went on his way, Jacob is returning to the promised land. He travels from **Mizpah** to **Mahanaim**, about seven and a half miles northwest. Jacob had deceived his father, Isaac, and brother, Esau, and is now returning home. Rebekah told Jacob to leave, and she would call for him. **Genesis 27:45**

angels of God met him.

Jacob had a dream 20 years earlier, **Bethel, Genesis 28:12**

Ministering spirits sent from God.

Hebrews 1:14 Angels are extremely powerful: **2 Kings 19:35**

Genesis 32:2 Mahanaim.

"God's Two Hosts, two camps"

camp - *"army of angels"* **Psalms 34:7**

Meaning: (One camp of angels before Jacob, another camp behind Jacob) or (One camp was the angels serving as God's camp of encouragement, the other camp was Jacob's need of encouragement)

God's promise to be with Jacob always – **Genesis 28:12; 31:11,13**

Romans 8:31; Hebrews 13:5-6

Jacob's Encounter With God's Camp Of Angels Seems To Have Little Effect In Assuring Jacob That God Had His Back. (Jacob's Unbelief)

2. Verses 3-8 Messengers Of Man:

Genesis 32:3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau

Jacob wants to test the waters with his brother to see how the relationship is!

The chapter reveals the **expensive and unnecessary actions of Jacob to pacify his brother.**

Genesis 32:4 "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau:

"Lord Esau" It was prophesied that Esau would serve him.

He is not walking in the promise of God, because of past sin.

'Thus says your servant Jacob,

Jacob is now a servant to Esau. What a humbling experience.

(Because of sin Jacob is not enjoying what he schemed for)

"I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now;

It has been 20 years of hiding.

Jacob is suffering guilt from a past sin.

His conscience is bothering him.

Genesis 32:5 I have oxen and donkeys and flocks and male and female

servants; Letting Esau know that Jacob was not asking for financial help.

He did not want his inheritance.

that I may find favor in your sight."

Jacob says nothing about asking forgiveness for the wrongdoing of stealing of Esau's birthright.

Genesis 32:6

he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

Does this sound like a welcoming committee? **Proverbs 18:19**

Verses 7-8 The Fear Of Man:

Genesis 32:7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid "*frighten, dread*"

This is a fear that completely takes over.

and distressed; "*be narrow; be straightened (in straits)*

Unbelief is deeply entrenched in the human heart.

It was Esau's hosts that have pushed away God's host!

What should Jacob do?

Jacob should cry out to God and seek Him for direction.

and he divided the people who were with him, Jacob resorts to scheming!

Genesis 32:8 company which is left will escape."

At least one group can get away!

3. Verses 9-12 Fear Of God:

Genesis 32:9 Jacob said, "O God "When all else fails, try prayer."

Reconciliation of Jacob and Esau was accomplished through Jacob's prayer, not Jacob's gifts!

Jacob's 1st recorded prayer.

(Magnificent Prayer, Longest Prayer in Genesis)

Note 6 Important Characteristics Of Jacob's Prayer:

#1 Prayer Rests Upon God's Word:

9 Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, Covenant relationship based upon God's Word.

#2 Prayer Must Involve God's Purpose: 9 O LORD, who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,'
Jacob now repeats to God His own words to him.

#3 Prayer Involves Humility: Genesis 32:10 I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant; Note that Jacob sees himself as God's servant!
NLT Luke 18:9-14

#4 Prayer Involves Thankfulness: 10 for with my staff only I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies. I am a recipient of God's blessings. It was twenty years earlier Jacob came with nothing now he has God and blessings.

Take time to give thanks:

#5 Prayer Involves Our Petition To God: Genesis 32:11 "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me and the mothers with the children.

"Deliver me, I pray, attack me, Notice his main concern is himself.

#6 Prayer Involves Pleading God's Promises: Genesis 32:12 "For You said, 'I will surely prosper you and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, Why would we plead God's Word to the Lord in prayer?"

To convince God? No to convince ourselves!

That what God promised He would be faithful to perform.

Jacob should have said. **9 my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac,** He should have said, "**and my God**" He should have pulled his family together and said, **let's pray and trust God in what He said to me.**

4. Verses 13-23 Fear Of Man:

Genesis 32:13 So he spent the night there.

Did Jacob trust God? He prayed and he still planned.

1 Peter 5:7 The word **casting** – "*to quickly fling all at once*" **Philippians 4:6-7**

Jacob never asked for God's plan he wanted God to bless his plans.

Genesis 32:14-15 580 animals

Genesis 32:16-19 Fives droves of the animals coming in groups.

Goats, sheep, cattle, camels, and donkeys.

Genesis 32:20 The word **appease** – Hebrew *kipper* 1st appearance in Scripture. Used for "*covering, atonement,*" *covering is by grace, not our works.*

perhaps he will accept me." "*Lift up my face*" Esau would accept Jacob.

Genesis 32:21 So the present passed on before him,

Later "**Trespass Offering**" came into being. **Matthew 5:22-25**

Genesis 32:22 Jabbok – "*To pour out and make empty*"

Genesis 32:23 Nothing wrong with protecting others

**What we see in Jacob's life is the surrender of all things except himself!
God must wrestle us - Verses 24-32**

Application:

1. Let Us Learn From Jacob's Failure To Pray First That Prayer Should Come Before Planning. We Should Pray And Seek God's Plan.
2. Jacob In His Pursuit Of Surrendering Objects To Esau, Fails To Surrender Himself To God