

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Brothers Reconciled"
Genesis 33:1-20
Study-61

Genesis 33:1-11

Reconciliation – *"bringing together again, adjustment has been made to bring together"* **Biblical reconciliation** is the process of two previously alienated parties coming to peace with each other.

Jesus made this all possible for us through the His Cross.
Reconciled to God - Romans 5:11

We All Need Reconciliation With God: Romans 5:10
We All Need Reconciliation With Man: Ephesians 4:32

Genesis 28-35 Jacob's Life:

Thought Of Our Passage: "We Can Wrestle With God, And See Him Face To Face, But What About The Next Day?"

- 1. Verses 1-11 Jacob's Reunion:**
- 2. Verses 12-16 Jacob's Separation:**
- 3. Verses 17-20 Jacob's Failure:**

1. Verses 1-11 Jacob's Reunion:

Genesis 33:1 Then Jacob lifted his eyes and looked,

Context - Jacob anticipated meeting his brother Esau, whom he had cheated out of his birthright and blessing 20 years earlier. That night, God wrestled with Jacob. Jacob finally surrendered, and God pulled his hip out of the socket. The result was that Jacob clung to the Lord, and God changed his name to **Israel** - *"One who is ruled, governed or controlled by God, fighter for God"*

Jacob, 97 years old, stumbling into camp, all torn up! 2 Corinthians 12:9

looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him, Esau brought 400 men, with the possibility there was going to be a fight.

So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids.

Instead of trusting God, Jacob relies on the flesh.

Genesis 31:3 I will be with you.

Genesis 33:2 He put the maids and their children in front,

He places the order of priority on his maids and children.
This had to have hurt to see love/priority!

Jacob will now place his son Joseph as his favorite son.

Genesis 33:3 But he himself passed on ahead of them

At least now, we see Jacob putting others before himself. Jacob has great courage.

Unlike Jacob To Bow Before Esau: and bowed down to the ground seven times,
This bowing **seven times** was the protocol for a king.
Genesis 27:29, Foretold that Esau was to bow to Jacob.
Now, Jacob must bow to Esau.

Genesis 33:4 Unlike Esau To Vent Such Emotion: Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him,
(Esau realized now that God had chosen Jacob to be first)

(Guilt/Forgiveness) Broken man disarmed Esau. This shows that God was working behind the scenes.

and fell on his neck and kissed him,
Rebekah 20 years earlier - **Genesis 27:44-45**

Esau – was a forgiving man. A generous, likeable, noble but lost!

and they wept. This was both of them that wept together.

It is interesting that the past is not brought up by either one of them. Philippians 3:13

Genesis 33:5 Jacob Gives The Glory To God For His Posterity: "The children whom God has graciously (*Grace*) given your servant."

Genesis 33:6-7 Here is the order of least importance that are placed in front.

Genesis 33:8 "What do you mean by all this company which I have met?"
All these expensive animals that Jacob had given to Esau.

And he said, "To find favor in the sight of my lord."
This was a trespass offering.

Genesis 33:9 Esau had learned to be content.
Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-8

my brother; Note Jacob calls Esau "**lord**" Esau calls him "**brother**"

Genesis 33:10 Jacob said,
God had changed his name from **Jacob** – *cheat, supplanter, the flesh*, to **Israel** – *governed or controlled by God, spiritual man*.

In Genesis 33-50, we see Jacob is called twice as much as he is called **Israel**. **Jacob** is **used 45 times**, and **Israel** is **used 23 times**.
When God changed **Abram** to **Abraham**, and **Saul** to **Paul**, these were their names forever. But **Jacob** to **Israel** is another story.

There is still a lot of Jacob left in Israel.

for I see your face as one sees the face of God,
"Esau's face has been changed by God"

Twenty years earlier, Esau wanted to kill Jacob; now, it's forgiveness and love.

Genesis 33:11 God – *"Elohim"* The God of the covenant.

Thus he urged him and he took it.

What does this urging all mean? In that culture, by **accepting the gift, the person was saying that we are no longer feuding, but the feud is over.**

2. Verses 12-16 Jacob's Separation:

Genesis 33:12 I will go before you." Let's travel together!

This speaks of an unequally yoked relationship.

Genesis 33:13-14

He says that the flocks and the children would slow them down

Jacob Lies To Esau: until I come to my lord at Seir."

This was the plan to catch up later. This is a lie. Jacob turns North.

Ephesians 4:15

Genesis 33:15 Esau wants to leave some protection for Jacob but declines it.

Genesis 33:16 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

Disappears from **Genesis** except for Isaac's burial **Genesis 35:29**

3. Verses 17-20 Jacob's Failure:

Genesis 33:17 Jacob's Failure As A Pilgrim: Jacob journeyed to Succoth;
"stalls or booths" Which is the opposite way. **Out of God's Will!**

(About seven years went by. Dinah will be of marriage age and raped in **Genesis 34**) **Bethel, Genesis 28:15** God first appeared at **Bethel.**

Genesis 31:13 God calls Himself **"God of Bethel"**

Genesis 35:1 "Arise, go up to Bethel and live there, Ephesians 4:25

and built for himself a house,

We don't read that God told him to go there or that he was supposed to dwell there. **Note the order of patriarchs' lives (Tent, Altar); now, Jacob's life has changed! 1. House, 2. City, 3. Land, 4. Altar**

and built for himself a house,

Jacob abandons the tent – **The Tent** – pilgrim character was symbolized by the tent. **Hebrews 11:9 dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob,**

and made booths for his livestock, therefore the place is named Succoth.

He settles down, and God says nothing about doing so. **James 4:4**

Genesis 33:18 Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem,
(Philistine territory) He now enters the land of Canaan, fulfilling God's promise –
Genesis 28:21 halfway obedience. 20 miles to Bethel.
Partial obedience is disobedience!

Shechem – a city on Mount Gerizim, near where the capital of Samaria would stand. Jacob would dig a famous well that Jesus would drink from. **(John 4)**

God had appeared to him as **"The God Of Bethel"** **Genesis 35:1**

There was Jacob and Israel dwelling in him. Romans 13:14

Genesis 33:19 He bought the piece of land
Joseph's bones will be buried here, **Joshua 24:32**

Shechem's father,
Introduction of the sin in **Genesis 34**, the rape of Dinah.

Genesis 33:20 Altar – The altar stood out as a testimony to the Lord in a pagan world.

Then he erected there an altar,
1 Samuel 15:22 "to obey is better than sacrifice"
Hebrews 10:25

El-Elohe-Israel – *"God, the God of Israel"*
He wanted no doubt to be a testimony, but his three sons will *"Shame The Name"*
Genesis 34

Application:

1. We Can Have An Experience With God By Which We Wrestle With Him And See Him Face To Face, But What About The Next Day? We Must Daily Surrender To God.
2. We Learn From Jacob That All Of Our Fleshly Attempts To Help God Out Result In Further Delays Of God's Will, Resulting In Unnecessary Problems.
3. Believers Never Need To Resort To Lying In The Pursuit Of God's Will. We Must Speak The Truth In Love.
4. When We Pray God Always Hears Our Prayers. Jacob's Fear Of Esau Was Unnecessary. God Had Promised To Bring Him Safely Home. God Was At Work In Esau's Heart, And Their Reunion Resulted In Reconciliation.