

Jacob & Esau

Genesis 32-33

Introduction: Three parts, Managing internal Fear (Genesis 32:1-21); Wrestling with God (Genesis 32:22-32); and Lasting Peace (Genesis 33).

Managing internal Fear – Genesis 32:1-21

Summary: In this part of the story all we come to understand is what is going on inside of Jacob; we have no insight into what it going on inside of Esau.

Wrestling with God – Genesis 32:22-32 – Jacob sends his family ahead and spent the night alone and “*met a man who wrestled with him until the break of the next day.*”

Precept: The blessing of God is not something that we can force from God, that we can manipulate for ourselves; when God chooses to bless us we can't make it happen sooner and we can't cause its delay; Jacob needed to learn that hard lesson.

Conflict Resolution

“Submission to God assures reconciliation”.

Four principles that govern a peacemaker and each flows from the scriptures.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - They seek to always glorify God

Matthew 7:5 - They seek to first deal with the beam in their own eye before addressing any offense by owning up to their own part and more in the conflict.

Matthew 18:15-17 - They speak truth in love as they confront things that are wrong by God's standards.

Matthew 5:24 - They choose to be restored, to be fully reconciled ,to completely forgive and clear away any relational issues that prevent Godly interactions and genuine peace.

Lasting Peace – Genesis 33:1-20

There can be no true reconciliation until someone or both parties own up to what they have done and make it right with the other person. Reconciliation is the result of confession/repentance and forgiveness; when one is missing there is not reconciliation.

Conclusion: Peacemaking is not peacekeeping; peacekeepers value relationship over truth, and if necessary act contrary to truth to keep the peace.

Jim Van Yperen states, “Conflict is God-purposed . . . Peace is God-provided” (92). Conflict begins in the individual but is overcome within the family, and the community; all of these elements are communal; they are not individual; reconciliation is possible because it is of relationship.