

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Genesis 32:22--33:4

Psalm 121

My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven & earth. (v2)

2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

Luke 18:1-8

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day & night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Genesis 32:22--33:4

²²The same night [Jacob] got up & took his two wives [Leah & Rachel], his two maids [Bilhah & Zilpah], & his eleven children* [Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Dinah*, & Joseph] & crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He...sent them across the stream, & likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; & a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; & Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" & he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God & with humans, & have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" & there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, & yet my life is preserved." ...³¹Now Jacob looked up & saw Esau coming, & four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah & Rachel & the two maids. ...³He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother. ⁴But Esau ran to meet him, & embraced him, & fell on his neck & kissed him, & they wept.

*sons, plus his daughter Dinah; Benjamin, his 12th son, is not born yet; cf. 35:16-18

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Review Jacob in your study Bible & even on Wikipedia en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob
2. Consider *Hosea 12:3-5 (also Exodus 4:24-26); Luke 12:27-34, 13:24; 1 Corinthians 12:27--13:1 (13:2-8), 14:1; Colossians 4:12; 2 Peter 3:15*; see also *Isaiah 45:9*. How is Jacob's wrestling match, striving with God, a model for us? What warning does Isaiah give? What do *1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Corinthians 11:21-28 1 Timothy 1:18, 6:12; 2 Timothy 4:7* add?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. The metaphor of wrestling with God does not describe our poor disposition or bad attitudes because he won't give us what we want like spoiled children. Instead, it is a transformative experience as Martin Luther describes, "This happens through that faith which holds so firmly to God's Word, until it overcomes God's wrath & obtains God as the gracious Father" (WA DB 8:137). When has this happened for you? If not, what do you make of that?
4. Recall Jacob's interactions with Esau. What about Jacob must be transformed before their reconciliation? *See #1; Genesis 25:19-34, 27:1-45* What unreconciled relationships do you have hanging over you? What needs to be transformed about you for reconciliation?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Consider *1 Corinthians 10:13 (1-13, really)* & the following citations. How can you speak encouragement & hope to someone who is struggling greatly- without being trifling, petty, trivial, or inane? *See Romans 8:28-39; 2 Corinthians 12:8-10; Ephesians 6:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; 2 Thessalonians 3:32; Timothy 4:18; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 2 Peter 2:9* Try putting yourself in their shoes to see if you would want to hear your own sappy platitudes.
6. Jacob "owes" Esau for his trickery, hence the presents *vv1-4, 13-21*. How can a gift or act of kindness help soothe troubled neighbors? How can it help them feel cared for in their troubles?

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19th Sunday after Pentecost

10.16.22

Series: From Generation to Generation

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Jacob's Family Homecoming

*Out of tricks & alone, Jacob must reckon with God before
reckoning with Esau*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: The sun rose upon [Jacob] as he passed Penuel,
limping because of his hip. (v31)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

The word of God is living & active, able to judge the thoughts &
intentions of the heart. (*Hebrews 4:12*)

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