

ALONE

GENESIS 32

Text: Genesis 32:24

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²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

Introduction:

Jacob is an interesting character in the Bible. Through cleverness he obtained his brothers birthright. In a deceptive partnership with his mother, he stole his brothers blessing. Then running for his life he spent a night at Bethel and vowed to God that he would not forget Him. He promised that one day he would return home and there erect as altar to God.

Being frustrated with his father-in-law he decides to return back home. But instead of receiving a grand welcome, he learned that his brother had gathered a small army and was seeking his life. Once again Jacob went to the well of his quick-wittedness that had so often been his way of doing things.

He sent flocks and herds of animals to appease his materialistic brother.

He divided his extended family and their servants into two groups and sent them separate ways for their safety.

Then in a final act of desperation he sent his remaining family members across the Jabbok.

Exhausted he slumped to the ground with the realization that he had reached into the bag of his own human ability and had pulled out his last trick.

Under the stars an unusual scene transpires.

Jacob wrestles with a man. Through the night the patriarch struggles, but with no success.

He finally realizes that the One that he has been wrestling with is none other than the Lord Himself.

The wrestling match is a telling picture of Jacob's life. He has sought to achieve success with his cleverness.

Observing now his inability and shortcomings he realized he needed God's help.

Jacob clings to the Lord and humbly but persistently asks for a blessing.

Jacob's life was never the same after that meeting with the Lord at Jabbok.

Admitting his need and inadequacy, he prayed to God with desperation and persistence, and God granted his request.

Every believers life is marked by turning points or special meetings with God. A Jabbok experience.

Notice:

1. JACOB WAS ALONE (VS. 24)

Genesis 32:24

²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

- A. A Time of Desperation
- B. A Time of Destitution
- C. A Time of Dread

2. JACOB WAS ALIVE (VS. 24-25)

Genesis 32:24-25

²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

Notice:

A. Resistance

Jacob wrestled until the breaking of the day

B. Revelation

When Jacob realized that his Opponent was the Lord he realized what folly it was to resist Him.

C. Request

Jacob's realization led to his request.

- He sought the blessing of the Lord (vs. 26)

Genesis 32:26

²⁶ And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

- He desired to know His name (vs. 29)

Genesis 32:29

²⁹ And Jacob asked *him*, and said, Tell *me*, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore *is* it *that* thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

Having the blessing of God on your life is one thing; knowing God is another.

3. JACOB WAS ALTERED (VS. 25-32)

Genesis 32:25-32

²⁵ And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. ²⁷ And he said unto him, What *is* thy name? And he said, Jacob. ²⁸ And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. ²⁹ And Jacob asked *him*, and said, Tell *me*, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore *is* it *that* thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. ³⁰ And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. ³¹ And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh. ³² Therefore the children of Israel eat not *of* the sinew which shrank, which *is* upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

A. He Was a Broken Man (vs.25-27)

1. He was a clinging man

- He was no longer fighting, but holding on.
- If we insist on fighting the Lord and His attempts at growing us, He will eventually bring us to the place where all the fight is gone.
- He knows exactly where and how to touch your life to get your attention.

2. He was a confessing man

- The angels demands to know Jacob's name. He forced to admit just who he is; the trickster, supplanter, the cheat.

B. He Was a Blessed Man (vs. 28-30)

The Jacob who left Canaan was capable of deceiving his brother, lying to his blind father, of cheating a crooked uncle. But, the man who returns is a man with a new nature. No more Jacob the "Trickster", but Israel a "Prince with God."

God's purpose in breaking us always the same; He does it so that He can make us again into a vessel unto honor.

C. He Was a Branded Man (vs. 31-32)

Everywhere Jacob went after that day, he carried the mark of God upon his body. The limp!

Every step he took reminded him and everyone around him that he was the Lord's and the Lord had touched him in a very personal manner.

Close:

Are you facing any circumstance now that causes you to feel desperate?

Persist in prayer.

Is God initiating or continuing a personal encounter with you these days? Are you welcoming or resisting this?

Have you had a Jabbok experience that brought a new identification, a new direction, a new devotion?