

“The God of the Wrestler”
Bible Stories Sermon Series, Pt. 11 - Gen. 32-33
October 14, 2018

I. Jacob’s Reaction to Reencountering Esau – Gen. 32:1-23

- A. Jacob was very afraid.
- B. Jacob sends gifts ahead to hopefully appease Esau.
- C. Jacob does turn to the Lord in prayer, but still shows self-reliance.

II. Jacob Wrestles with God – Gen. 32:24-32

- A. The “Man” was *The* Angel of the Lord (2nd Person of the Trinity).
- B. Jacob refuses to let go without receiving a blessing, technically winning the “match”.
 - 1. The Lord concedes.
 - 2. Jacob’s name is changed to “Israel” because he strove with man and God...and *prevailed*.
- C. How did Jacob prevail over God? Through desperate, dependent prayer.

Hosea 12:3–4a - ³ *In the womb he [Jacob] took his brother by the heel, and in his maturity, he contended with God.* ⁴ *Yes, he wrestled with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought His favor.*

III. New Name, New Man – Genesis 33

- A. Jacob became courageous. (Gen. 33:3, 10)
- B. Jacob was now humble. (Gen. 33:3)
- C. Jacob trusted the Lord more deeply. (Gen. 33:11)
- D. Jacob became a true worshipper of the Lord. (Gen. 33:18-20)
- E. The Lord sends trials into our lives with the same results in mind.