

# **Living by Faith**

## Lesson 6

Genesis 32-33; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

June 28, 2020

### **Reconciling with an Enemy**

#### **Introduction**

Diet fads often tout their ability to completely change your life in the shortest amount of time possible. We all want to be healthy and change our bad behaviors, but we often don't want to put in the hard work necessary to make real, lasting changes.

In our reading this week we see that Jacob seems to want to trust God. He asks for God's guidance and help, yet reverts back to old schemes, and self-reliance. The man he wants to be is overtaken by old habits and fear. Jacob is afraid of what this confrontation with his brother will entail more than he is entrusting his life to God. What is it going to take for Jacob to find true, lasting change, and is this change available to us as well?

***Memory verse: "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."—Ephesians 4:31-32)***

Pray and read Genesis 32-33; and 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

#### **What do the passages say?**

1. How did Jacob prepare Esau for their meeting? (Genesis 32:3-5)

2. What was Esau's response? (Genesis 32:6)
  
3. What was Jacob's fear? (Genesis 32:7-11)
  
4. What was the man's response after wrestling with Jacob? (Genesis 32:28)
  
5. With whom did Jacob wrestle? (Genesis 32:30)
  
6. What was Esau's initial response when he first reunited with Jacob? (Genesis 33:4)
  
7. If anyone is in Christ, what has come? (2 Corinthians 5:17)
  
8. From who is all of this? (2 Corinthians 5:18)
  
9. What is the ministry God has given to us? (2 Corinthians 5:18)
  
10. In view of all the this, what is our job? (2 Corinthians 5:20)

## What do the passages mean?

1. What truths did Jacob's prayer contain? What does it say about God and how He has acted in the past? (Genesis 32:9-12)
2. Jacob chose a plan of action first in dividing his camp, then consulted God through prayer. What does this say about Jacob's own self-reliance?
3. Many say that the man Jacob wrestled with was a pre-incarnate Jesus. Jesus wanted to take away the self-reliance and scheming for which Jacob had been known. He gave him a new name, signifying that Jacob was a new creation, a brand-new start. Because we ourselves have been forgiven much, and been made new, how should we approach our enemies? (2 Corinthians 5:17-20; 1 John 4:19)

4. During the fight, Jacob thought he was evenly matched with the man, when in reality, Jesus could have overtaken Jacob at any moment. What must we acknowledge about God and ourselves before we can pursue a new life? (Psalm 8:4; Isaiah 55:8-9)
  
5. Why should fear of the Lord be greater than fear of our perceived enemies? (Isaiah 11:2-3; James 4:6-7; Philippians 2:12-13)

### **Applying the passages**

1. How has God tried to get your attention? What does God need to conquer inside of you before you can be made new? How have you trusted in your own ability to handle things?

