

Genesis 32:1-12 (KJV) 1 And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. 2 And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim. 3 And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom. 4 And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now: 5 And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight. 6 And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him.

7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed:

and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands; 8 And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape.

9 And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: 10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. 11 Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. 12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

Intro

God never intended for us to have broken relationships

- Marriage – brought together Adam and Eve
- Family – guidelines in Ephesians 5 & 6
- Church – unity – see in Acts and I Corinthians 12
- Work Relationships – I Peter 2 tells servants to be subject to their masters
- Neighborhood – told to love our neighbors as ourselves
- Government – Obey those that have rule over us

I. Cause of Broken Relationships – Jacob

Why if God has designed, commanded and instructed us to be a peace with others are there so many broken relationships? SIN

A. Sin is ALWAYS against God

1. Sin of Self Dependence

Genesis 25:31-34 (KJV) 31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. 32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? 33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

- We think we don't need God's help we can do it on our own

2. Sin of Deception

Genesis 27:11-14 (KJV) 11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man: 12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing. 13 And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them. 14 And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved.

- deceive ourselves "I don't need God"
- deceive others about how close we are to God

3. Sin of Desertion – running from God

Genesis 27:42-44 (KJV) 42 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; 44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;

- fill our lives with "things" that really do not matter

B. Sins Always Grows

C. Sin ALWAYS affects Others

D. Sin Nature Never Goes away

II. Cure to Broken Relationships

Genesis 32:6-7 (KJV) 6 And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him. 7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands;

A. Bring our Fears to the Lord

Genesis 32:9-12 (KJV) 9 And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee: 10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands. 11 Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children. 12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

B. Broken before God

Genesis 32:24-25 (KJV) 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.

**** Note this is not the first time Jacob wrestles with God**

- Jacob had gotten comfortable in his 20 years – family was fine, wealth had increased and now God ask him to move out of his comfort zone and return home but his FEARS cause him to wrestle with the will of God

C. Changed by God – we cannot change ourselves - * note RU is not about changing oneself but being transformed to the image of God

Genesis 32:30-31 (KJV) 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.

Note Jacob's change it is much more than his name

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (KJV) 16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We are changed when we are converted but in this flesh we still fight the old nature so we must "grow" and be transformed

2 Peter 3:17-18 (KJV) 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

1. Die to self – put others first

Genesis 33:1-3 (KJV) 1 And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men. And he divided the children unto Leah, and unto Rachel, and unto the two handmaids. 2 And he put the handmaids and their children foremost, and Leah and her children after, and Rachel and Joseph hindermost. 3 ***And he passed over before them....***

Compare

Genesis 32:4-8 (KJV) 4 And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now: 5 And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and womenservants: and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight.

6 And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, We came to thy brother Esau, and also he cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men with him. 7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed: and he divided the people that was with him, and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into two bands; 8 And said, If Esau come to the one company, and smite it, then the other company which is left shall escape.

Paul said "I die daily"

2. Humbled Himself

Genesis 33:3 (KJV) 3 And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

We can not simply humble ourselves ONCE but constantly!

3. Make restitution

Genesis 33:8 (KJV) 8 And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

4. Find our satisfaction in Christ Alone

Genesis 33:9-11 (KJV) 9 And Esau said, *I have enough*, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself.

10 And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me. 11 Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because *God hath dealt graciously with me*, and *because I have enough*. And he urged him, and he took it.

Two different Hebrew words here for “I have enough”

Esau – used the words – “I have enough things” – God does even bless the lost!

Matthew 5:45 (KJV) 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Jacob – used Hebrew word meaning “He had enough in God – he had seen God’s face”

Though God wants us to have strong human relationships we MUST come to the place the ONE relationship that satisfies our soul is FOUND in HIM ALONE!

III. Cost of Broken Relationships

A. Lost time

Jacob stayed with Laban 20 years – 7 years for Leah, 7 years for Rachael, and 6 years for the sheep and goats:

Genesis 31:41 (KJV) 41 Thus have I been twenty years in thy house; I served thee fourteen years for thy two daughters, and six years for thy cattle: and thou hast changed my wages ten times.

Ephesians 5:16 (KJV) 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Colossians 4:5 (KJV) 5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time

How many lost years do you have?

- relationships?
- testimony?
- serving?
- fellowship?

B. Lost Treasures

Genesis 27:42-44 (KJV) 42 And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee. 43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban my brother to Haran; 44 And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away;

Sadly, Jacob would never see his father again (unless Scripture didn't record it)

Genesis 35:27-29 (KJV) 27 And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned. 28 And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years. 29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Treasure is what God had planned for you!

Judgement Seat of Christ will reveal many lost treasures

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (KJV) 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because **it shall be revealed** by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall

receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Application:

1. God is the God of Reconciliation wants us to restore relationships

James 3:17-18 (KJV) 7 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

We are to be PEACE MAKERS

2. Must be quick to BURY grudges

Genesis 33:11 (KJV) 11 Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

Jacob was making restitution for the stolen birthright and eastern custom was that if received the offense could never be brought up again!

Psalms 103:12 (KJV) 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Are you keeping a record of offenses?

3. Released from anger, hurt, bitterness to start over.

Genesis 33:12-17 (KJV) 12 And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before thee. 13 And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die. 14 Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I will lead on softly, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children be able to endure, until I come unto my lord unto Seir. 15 And Esau said, Let me now leave with thee some of the folk that are with me. And he said, What needeth it? let me find grace in the sight of my lord.

16 So Esau returned that day on his way unto Seir. 17 And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built him an house, and made booths for his cattle: therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

Some criticize Jacob for stopping at Succoth and not heading straight to Bethel but Esau's heart was not changed toward God.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17 (KJV) 14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,