

(Genesis 32)  
“*Changed Forever*”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: “*Changed Forever.*”

~ INTRO ~

IN OUR LAST STUDY...

- We learned thru the seasons of life...
  - God has a plan that He's working out in us & thru us.
- AND... in parts of His plan...
  - We may see what He's doing.

WE'LL... TONIGHT... IN GOD'S UNFOLDING PLAN...

- There's a few difficult conversations approaching.
  - One with Jacobs brother (Esau) from 20-years earlier.
    - When a family meltdown left emotions high...
      - And anger boiling over!
  - The second conversation is with God.
    - As desperation leaves Jacob grasping for help.

~ STUDY ~

LET'S STRING THE STORY TOGETHER...

- The family feud in (Gen 27)...
  - Left relationships broken.
- Jacob went on the run (Gen.28)...
  - And he lived with extended family members (Uncle Laban).
- Jacob continued to live his life (Gen. 29-30)...
  - And his family grew with wives & children over 20-years.
- Two decades later God stirs up a season of change (Gen. 31)...
  - And Jacob is ordered back to his past.

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**HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN:**

**IDEA #1 – THE PAST IS CATCHING UP:** (Gen. 32:1-8)

IT’S HELPFUL TO NOTE...

- In (v.1) angels from God met him.

THIS IS AN OVER LOOKED AREA IN OUR LIVES...

- Yet the Bible is clear.

(Heb. 1:14) NLT

*“... angels are only servants – spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.”*

SEARCH IT OUT YOURSELF...

- (Gen 18) / (Joshua 5) / or (Mark 16)
  - Angels always appear in the **male form** (not female).

IN (Luke 22:43) NKJV

*“... an angel appeared to Him [Jesus] from heaven, strengthening Him.”*

AND FINALLY...

- (2 Kings 6:15-17) NKJV
  - An army was getting ready to take out Elisha & his servant.
    - But angels surround the scene... protecting Elisha.

**POINT BEING...** GOD HAS SEVERAL WAYS...

- He can intervein in our lives.

NOW... JACOB...

- Is in a conflict between faith & fear...
  - As the past conflict catches up with him.

BUT GOD...

- Was using it as an avenue of healing & permanent change.

CHURCH...

- It may take several decades...
  - But when we leave our struggles in God’s hand...

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- He brings healing.

(Proverbs 16:7) NKJV

*“When a man’s ways please the Lord,  
He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*

AND **HERE’S A LESSON:**

- Until GOD brings it to pass... our actions & attitudes...
  - Are to live peaceably with all men.
- We’re to drop the *argumentative spirit*...
  - And be known for kindness & gentleness.

SO OFTEN... **DELAY** OCCURS...

- Because God is working the nastiness out of our hearts.

DIFFICULT RELATIONSHIPS MIGHT NEVER BE PERFECT...

- But He will make THEM better for your sake.

**#2 – A DESPIRATE PRAYER:** (Gen. 32:9-20)

IN THIS HOUR OF TROUBLE...

- God met Jacob with what he needed.

(Ps. 18:25-26) NLT

- God showed up as a traveler to Abraham the pilgrim (Gen. 18).
- God showed up to Joshua the general as a soldier (Josh. 5).
- God shows up to Jacob as a wrestler
  - Because Jacob wrestled with people. <sup>1</sup>

**HERE’S WHAT WE CAN UNDERSTAND...**

- *God meets us where we’re at...*
  - *To lift us where He wants us to be.* <sup>2</sup>

BACK IN (Gen. 28:15) NKJV

- God already promised to be with Jacob & bring him back safely.

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<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, Old Testament Commentary (p.110). Published by David C. Cook. Copywrite 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., (p.110) (para. 9).

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- But sometimes it takes a scar for us to let go & trust God.

~ A.W. TOZER ~

*“The Lord cannot fully bless a man until He has first conquered him.”*<sup>3</sup>

- Jacob finally surrenders to God, but there was a scar to bear...
  - He limped for the rest of his life.

GOD MAY BRING A LIMP...

- Into our life... so WE can fully rely on Him.

**IDEA #3 – THE SCAR THAT CHANGED ME:** (Gen. 32:21-32)

READ (v.27)

~ WARREN WIERSBE ~

- That *the last time Jacob was asked his name he lied...*
  - *And told his dad he was Esau* (Gen. 27:18-19).<sup>4</sup>

(v.28) THIS IS A POWERFUL MOMENT HERE...

- And the same can be true in our lives.

GOD IS NOT ASKING HIS NAME...

- Because he didn't know it.
  - He was asking **IF** Jacob was ready for change.

HE WAS KNOWN AS A MANIPULATOR...

- And God changed him & gave him a new name.
  - **Israel** = Governed by God.

**~ IN CLOSING ~**

JESUS DID THE SAME TO PETER...

- (John 1:42) NLT
  - Are you ready for a name change too?

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<sup>3</sup> A.W. Tozer, *The divine Conquest* (Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, 1950), p.53.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, (p.110) (para.11).