

Jacob's Wrestling Match
June 1, 2014

Review

- BEGINNINGS—OF THE HUMAN RACE; OF THE HEBREW RACE
- FOUR EVENTS: CREATION, FALL, FLOOD, NATIONS
- FOUR PEOPLE: ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, JOSEPH

Genesis 32:7-31

God is building Jacob's testimony and here we continue:

Vital lessons from the life of Jacob:

1) Regularly review the promises of God!

But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'

Genesis 32:12

Verses 9-12 were not a reminder for God; they were a reminder for Jacob! He was praying to God and in essence giving himself a pep talk on what he already knew to be **true!**

Jacob was scared for his life and in a desperate situation.

In all situations we need to **know** and **review** the promises of God and keep them in context.

2) Remain persistent

Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

Genesis 32:26

This encounter was part of God's plan and Jacob wasn't giving up. We don't need to **give up**, on our spouse, children, family, work, etc.

Pray in accordance with God's will until He answers.

Pray continually. **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

3) Recognize who we were

The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.

Genesis 32:27

It wasn't that God had forgotten who Jacob was.

There is much in a name--- deceiver, heel grabber! God wanted Jacob to recognize who he was before God changed his name and who he would become... so that he would realize the changes are all from God, and nothing he did himself.

God is wanting Jacob to **recognize** his need for God!

4) Realize who we have become

Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

Genesis 32:28

"He **struggles** with God"

His new identity given by God

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

5) Realize resistance can be a blessing

This was part of God's plan to continue His work

The resistance (struggle) brought forth the blessing from God, it was God's plan from the **original call** of Abram and this was God carrying out that plan.

Sometimes out of struggles and resistance, we see and receive the blessings of God that we might not recognize any other way!

6) Embrace the reminders of our encounters with the living God

The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

Genesis 32:31

Are you a new creation, realizing you are not who you used to be? Are you remaining persistent? Are you embracing the encounters with the living God? Are you able to embrace the struggles?