

Sunday March 24, 2024 - "Genesis - Jacob - Week 5 - Birth of a Nation - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Genesis 32:1-12, 22-28, Ephesians 4:22b-24a

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Esau has become a powerful leader and brings a force against Jacob
 - Jacob's idea" Split people into two camps and for the 1st time Jacob prays (v9-12)
 - When things are overwhelming → pray
- Jacob's prayer template
 - Recognition (it matters who we pray to
 - Who God actually is...one true God
 - Who spoke to Jacob personally
 - Prayer of confession
 - Not just admitting sins/sinfulness
 - Truth telling...how God sees things
 - Honest dialogue ("I am afraid")...we can express all of our emotions
 - Petitions God - he needs God, at the end of his rope
 - Remembering the promises of God
 - What God has said
 - Sometimes the only things holding us up are the promises of God
- Prayer of Jacob is connected with wrestling with God
 - Not a vision of a dream, the man = God (who instigates the wrestle)
 - God answers and honors Jacob's prayer (by wrestling "I can't move unless you get out of the way")
 - He wants to wrestle every last bit of self-sufficiency out of Jacob
 - Stripping Jacob of his old self and preparing him to be the father of Israel
- All of Genesis leads to 32:27-28
 - What is your name? (Jacob is what his name means
 - He gets a new name...that's the old you, walk in your new identity (in the truth of who you are)
- God gives us a new name and a new identity
- If you surrender to God, he will strip away every label that holds you back
- Ephesians 4:22b-24a (new self)
- We have a supernatural ability to live out our new identity (Holy Spirit)

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What does it look and feel like for you to recognize God for who he truly is?
2. How have you learned to express all of your emotions with God and with others?
3. Was there a time in your life when all you had holding you up were the promises of God? What was that like for you?
4. What does it mean to walk in your new identity, in the truth of who you really are?
5. How has God stripped away labels that were holding you back?
6. How has God wrestled self-sufficiency out of you like he did with Jacob?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this message or passage?

Songs from the weekend:

[Joy of the Lord - *Grace Worship*] - [Great Are You Lord - *All Sons and Daughters*] - [Only a Holy God - *City Alight*] - [10,000 Reasons - *Matt Redman*]