

50. Norfolk - March 16, 75 11th. WXHI  
Grove Park - July 12, 90 PM  
Lake Drummond Jan 26, 96

JACOB'S NIGHT OF WRESTLING

Gen. 32

INTRODUCTION:

The night scenes in the Bible are many and yet wonderful. By way of introduction, I might ask the question why is it so dark on the banks of the river at Jbbok. There was trouble and something had to be done. And this is one of the most eventful things in the life of Jacob. Here was the brook Jbbok flowing into the Jordan. This river brook had a mysterious scene to take place on the banks. It is a wild rocky stream that comes down from the mountains of Gilead and Bashan - and joins the Jordan on the East. Mid-way between the sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. It has clear blue color as it flows and there is great growth of oleander which lights up the valley with a brilliant color in season.

This river is about (60 miles) long. And at some points, you may cross it with ease. It is a dry bed for half of the year. The hot sun - the Heavens burns down upon the barren rocks. And it looks just like a deep channel. However, in the (rainy season) the main stream and all the branches are transformed into a foaming furious torrent that fills the valleys with the roar as the water runs swiftly and the strong current comes down to the banks of the Jordan. Here and there are green trees and at places the river is very narrow. And at other places, it is uncrossable. Now Jbbok falls 1200<sup>inches</sup> in a mile and it must have a current very swift when the rains descend.

They tell us that the Ganges falls 4<sup>inches</sup> a mile and it flows 5 miles in a hour.

It is ablaze with bright flowers in the Spring, that makes it look as though it were all on fire. And the table lands around it are dark green forests of open pine.

Now the wild river Jbbok - not far from its junction with the Jordan is the place where Jacob had come with his family and with his friends.

V. 22  
V. 13

We read this in verses 22 and also in verses 13.

So his family had reached Jbbok's Ford. Now this was a place where you could cross the river by wading across, on foot.

*Man Reminds Chalch write good deed over 5,000 - trying  
met Preacher coming down where going to get some more choll  
Negro Preacher Descended his Vision on Brazza River Texas*

of some  
Bible

History  
way Back -

28:12 Ladder set up on Earth Top reached Heaven!

Twenty years before Jacob in his flight from his home had crossed the same stream carrying his staff with him - carrying all of his earthly possessions in just a little shepherd's bag. But today he is returning and he has become so rich, that he could select 550 sheep, goats, camels, and oxen for just a present to send his brother Esau. And yet, have a multitude left as his flocks filled the valleys. As they travel along, leaving this lonely exile in a strange land in which he had enlarged his possessions.

Jacob was returning to his native country and of course this was at the obedience of the divine command. And he comes down to the fords of Jbbok and here he is searching for some divine protection. While his flocks were moving slowly like fleecy clouds along the grassy hillsides. Jacob lifted up his eyes and saw in the open day as if it were - two hosts of angels encamped behind him. And before, and moving with him for his protection.

V. 1-2

He remembered the vision at Bethel and I am certain that he rejoiced in this as V. 2 tells us that Jacob saw them - God's hosts. As they moved with him.

Stone Pillow - New H. Spuchyard

Here die & No Wonder I'm Dead.

For The wheel of a Wagon went over My Head.

There are lots of us who live in a matter of fact - a mechanical age and we are apt to think that this man Jacob must have had a wonderful life all wrapped up as when he could see God's hosts among the hills and he could see a convoy of bright angels like the burning clouds of sunset hovering around him.

But God's hosts is always nearer than we are apt to suppose. In the dark hours of trial, the angels have not yet forsaken the earth. Nor have they ceased to protect the homes and the journeys of good men.

Remember Abraham entertained the divine messengers, at noontime. The spiritual world is all about us. And it is living inhabitants are our fellow servants and companions. They work with us. It is not from any want of interest in the affairs of men that they fail to come.

We must not think that God is more interested in the world in ancient times when he spoke by miracles, prophets, and apostles. Than when he speaks by his written word and his providence today. There is no burden that rests upon our shoulders. There is no pain that touches our hearts. Without our Heavenly Father caring. If we do not see angels come and take us by the hand and lead us out of danger, as they led Lot out of Sodom, it is not because they have ceased to come. Or because they fail to guard us, when we need protection.

There never was a time when God was doing more to govern, instruct, and save the world than he is doing right now. To those who look for him and the tokens of his presence we see manifested everywhere the voice of God - it is in the wind. Every path of life is over-shadowed by his glory.

We need only a pure heart to see God and he speaks in all the discoveries of science. In the inventions of art. He comes.

Now Jacob greatly needed such encouragement as God's hosts gave him. Why did

he need this.

*Straightest Man Bible - Joseph, Pharaoh made him a Ruler,  
one Evolver man in Beginning was JACOB!*

He had heard that his offended brother Esau was coming out to meet him with

400 men as wild and war-like as himself.

Think of it! What could Jacob do against such a roaving, reckless ban who lived by plunder.

Now who could take easily an old grudge of 20 years standing and use it as an excuse to do violence, blood-shed, and robbery. It would only be a daily custom to sweep down upon Jacob's herds - destroy the keepers, drive off the cattle, and use them for their own welfare.

Jacob was not a man of war. He had no skill with the use of the spear or the bow, or the sword. He has no guard of soldiers that are armed. He has only some herdsmen who were guiding his flocks. He was not prepared for any such encounter as Esau.

V. 6 V. 6 says Esau is coming with his 400 men.

Let us think about some of the ways Jacob used to handle the crisis dealing with the hatred of Esau. This grudge was 20 years old. A lot of people today have grudges that they hold against other folks, maybe for 10 years, 20 years, etc. But how is the best way to deal with this - and people who do hold grudges against others.

*Protect on  
Principle  
Power*

I. PROTECTION OF OTHERS - V. 3, 7

V. 3 - Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother. He sent first of all somebody to investigate. And to talk to Esau and to them Esau that he was coming.

V-6 And they brought back the report that Esau was coming with his 400 in V. 6. V. 7 -

V. 7 Jacob divides his company - his flocks into two groups - into two bands. He was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people that was with him and the flocks

and the herds.

V. 8 - His thinking was as V. 8 indicates, if Esau comes perhaps he will just limit his slaughter to one company. And the other company will be able to escape. And so first of all Jacob thinks about protecting his family and flock, and others.

*Send Esau lots of Frank's !!  
I had one Billy goat as my - small  
cart - he go under home - that screen  
door was out come eat - George paper  
man the place - get out into  
Road across to store  
was parked old  
model car  
Billy Billy on Hood  
Dance on hind legs Top  
Send in Back  
Driver -*

II. PRESENTS V. 13-16

*Gifts*

V. 13 Now this is a very unique technique employed by Jacob. For he tells us here as they were setting up their lodging for that night, in the 13th verse, that he said, we'll prepare a present for Esau, my brother. 200 she goats, 20 he goats, 200 ewes, 20 rams, 30 camels, 40 cows (etc.) He gets all of this present taken from his herd, and he is going to have them delivered to his brother Esau. He is going to

V. 16 to deliver them in groups. One group at a time, they are going to have one drove.

V. 18 And then there will be a space between them and then there will be another drove. And then you come to Esau he says, you tell him V. 18 - that we have sent him a present. And so the second will say the same thing when he comes to Esau. Now

Jacob sent a noble present - not of jewels of fine garment but of cattle and animals - to the number of (580 in all) And I want you to note how it was carried out. When the first drove meets Esau, he will say, who are you and what is this. And he will say, we're Jacob's servants. And this is a present from your brother. After awhile, Esau will meet the second drove. And he will receive the same question and the same answer. Now if you can imagine this in your mind - if this is repeated over and over again, as he met (five successive droves) Jacob had wisdom in that as someone has said. Many drops of water drop, drop, drop. Will wear away a rock. And so maybe the first impression glances off. But after awhile, one will stick. Now it does not seem to me that the madness of the man in the world could have remained mad until he got through meeting those herds. And this was one of the ways

*Mama  
Send Billy to  
Butch !!  
next day !!  
Send tell me  
Now  
get my goat !!*

in which Jacob dealt with the problem that he had. He presented his presents unto Esau.

*Protection  
Presents*

✓ III. PRAYER V. 10-11, 22

V:10 We take up the subject of prayer. Now you will remember this was the best part of Jacob's plan that night on the river bank, at Jabbok's Ford. He wanted to settle this solemn account between himself and the Heavenly Father.

He is going to make a humble confession of his own many sins and he is going to plead the divine promise of God to deal with him.

Men who never pray in health and safety, will sometimes call upon God in great earnestness when danger and death are near. God sometimes open the pit of destruction and men will call upon him. They may have been prayerless but they will say, Lord help me.

And there is no good thing in the world which a man cannot afford to lose if the sacrifice and suffering will teach him to call upon God in humble and fervent prayer.

Jesus taught that men ought always to pray. That they must need to pray as a necessity and as a privilege.

If any man thinks he has not time to pray - let him ask who gives what time he has and whether in fact he has time for anything else so long as prayer is neglected.

Let him see to it less God will give him time to fail in business - to be sick,

to suffer, and even to die. Now God leaves that choice up to a man as people say - I am so busy, I have not time for prayer. If any man says he has no time for prayer - let him observe in this. As a little child asks for food when he is hungry. Every Christian can do that of the Heavenly Father. We should say at once it would be better to die than not to pray. Now Jacob is trying to perform this - his duty in dealing with this dark night - by seeking help from God. He has adopted other measures to handle him.

✓ First we have suggested - he tried to (protect) his family. And a wise thoughtful man will do that. He divided up his people, his flocks, and his herds into two companies. So at least one group would escape.

✓ The next thing he does, he selects and sends a gift - (a present) ~~500~~ from his vast herd as a present to Esau.

✓ Now when the night closes in - the day is over, and all is resting in the valley - he passes his family silently across the Ford of the river. And he went (back across) the Ford himself to spend a sleepless night on the Northern side of the stream. There on the river bank, he could not bear to have his family see his distress. Or to see his (supplication). It was a great conflict.

*No Stirly Abandon - in Mt. Yarnon - Marston on the River.*  
He would rather be (alone with God) - so he left them sleeping. You remember Jesus that night in his great agony, left his disciples and went away to pray alone in the darkness.

Now this was the best part of Jacob's plan. To exercise prayer - human supplication. Everything else is shut out. And here he is alone with God and it is night time. Jacob's night of wrestling.

Nothing can make our souls purser and stronger than coming alone for an hour

V-24 In great agony and suddenly he (feels) the grasp of a strong hand layed upon him. He springs to his feet. He (struggles) with all of his might to cast this one to the ground. And he (maintains this wrestle) which goes on for hours. As a (real) hand to hand struggle. And neither party seemed to speak a word.

V-10 V. 10 - He (confesses) I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast showed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

V. 11 He (prays for deliverance) 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.

V. 12 He (claims the promise) and the covenant of God. Thou has said unto me, I will surely do thee good and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

V. 24 And Jacob was (left alone) and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

There is (nothing) in this story that hints that this wrestling of Jacob was just a dream, or a vision, or ecstasy.

The struggle was real. And I think this man Jacob, (dare) not lose his hold or relax in the context for the fear that he should be thrown down to the earth and disabled.

As we watch this (long struggle) that night, I am more amazed at Jacob - how wonderful a man he was. He knew that he was (in touch with the super-natural). Now it



is not said that Jacob wrestled with the man. But that man wrestled with Jacob. There is no question that Jacob wrestled too. But the beginning of the struggle was on the side of God. It was the man who wrestled with Jacob.

And God often comes and intercedes for us. Hosea 12:4 - Jacob calls him God.  
And he was the manifestation of the (logos) the son of God.

V. 26 Somebody in the story remarked about one man being as (a bull dog). Whenever he took hold - he would not let loose. You might kick him, you might scold him, but he held his grip. And that is a (lesson) of Jacob here. Jacob said, (I will not let thee go unless thou bless me.)

Now anybody who knocks at the door of prayer and then runs off, before anybody comes to answer it, just makes one petition. He will never succeed.

A preacher once told the story of how his older brother taught him a history lesson as a child. One night he was telling the battle of the marathons. Where 100,000 Persians were assailed by 10,000 Greeks. How the Greeks broke the ranks of the Persians and followed them to the sea. And the Persians got into the boats and the Greeks grabbed the boats with their hands until the Persians cut their hands off. And then how they caught hold with their teeth. Until the Persians cut their heads off. He said when my brother got that far, I jumped up in bed and yelled Hoorah for the Greeks. I upset the whole house. Well now, there was the secret of prayer. And the angel said to Jacob as they prayed - what is thy name.

V. 25 V. (25) - And the angel touched his thigh - and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

This struggle went on until (lameness) followed. And Jacob dare not turn loose or relax. And at last when the (day) began to break and the contest still went on, the

mysterious stranger put forth his reserve power and brought the struggle to a close. He touched the strength of Jacob's frame - and he was no longer a strong man. But in a moment before - he could only hold on. Now he is (a cripple) And he has gained his victory through prayers and tears.

Now remember (all) of this took place under (darkness). The mysterious stranger that wrestled with him that night, was the incarnate son of God. That mighty helper that comes to help us and takes on human form and enters into the bodily struggle with his own servant Jacob.

V. 26 V. (26) - Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, (I will not let thee go,  
except thou bless me) This poor stricken lame man now says, I will not let you go until you bless me.

At the first dawn of day, of the Eastern sky, we see a strange and a wonderful thing happen. Jacob is crippled. Now (I cannot explain) that any further. The man might have crippled Jacob at the beginning of the night. But it does not say so. He might have done it at any point - but not until Jacob had wrought with all of his strength and God touched him and crippled him. It was when Jacob discovered that his strength was ebbing away, he could no longer resist the power. And I will not let you go unless you bless me.

I think Jacob's voice at this time must have been (choked with tears) Except thou bless me. It must have been his last sob of a defeated man - a man defeated by God, in a struggle and God had prevailed over Jacob. And Jacob had reached the place - where he had prevailed and won a victory with God.

*Protection  
Presents  
Prayer*

IV. POWER FROM HEAVEN

V. 28 And this takes us in V. 28 forward.

V.28  
That was the blessing in V. 28 - the Bible says, And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel; for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. The mightiest man on this earth is the man who has power with God. For God is almighty. And he promised all the needed help would come to him from on high.

From the closet of prayer, men have raised their faith, and have joined the ranks of princess with God.

In every nation, in this world - there are those who have cried for freedom. And men have prayed all night and prayed in desperation. As John Knox - give me Scotland or I die.

We are all in the midst of hazards and uncertainties and we must struggle through the light and darkness.

But when you give up yourself as Jacob, when men today will give up their debasing appetites, the wild passions for lust - God's angels will come and smite them. And deliver them. And anything that delivers you from the bondage - you are going to receive a blessing.

This will come by the deep mysteries of the word of God. And this is his plan of redemption. Remember this, God is very near you in the darkness - in the mystery of your troubles he is right there.

Jacob said things never looked so dark to me as now.

But now in God's providence, he comes to learn that lesson. And sometimes we make the sad mistake of not knowing that God can give us a blessing.

And what was that blessing - his name is going to be changed to Israel. What a declaration. This means as Israel means, a God governed, a God mastered man.

What a wonderful thing, to be God governed.

This new name means that he is going to have power with God. Henceforth, Jacob is a new man. A regenerated man. Christ said, that must happen to all of us, ye must be born again. When you are confronted with that mystery.

Now others have struggled at the midnight hour and have struggled not with a man nor an angel, or God. But they have struggled with a demon and they have struggled long, hard, and lonely. Just as Jacob.

*you can reach God faster than you can dial "911"*

There are thousands of souls tonight that need to come to Jabbok. And hold on to God as Jacob did to the angel, and say to the angel of your experience - how hard and how dark it is - but I will not let go. Except thou bless me.

v. 29 v. 29 - It says that God dismissed him with a blessing. God's blessing is what we all have most reason to seek and to desire. Even a dungeon or a phone in a palace without the blessing of God, is dark.

This would dry up all the human sorrow in this world tonight. If all men could be persuaded that the first thing they ought to seek is to pray for God's blessing upon them.

v. 30 v. 30 - And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel. He gave it a new name. There on the river bank, as the sun was coming up.

For he said, I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved.

there and spiritual blessings come when a man desires them.

Jacob gives the name of the place Peniel. Which means the place of God.

The name he gives the place preserves not the honor of his victory, but only the honor of God's free grace.

Understand here, it was (a place he wrestled with God.) In this place I saw God. Face to face - and God preserved me.

It was the praise of God, and by God's mercy that he escaped with his life. And so this is a tremendous truth to remember in the 30th verse.

V 31 v. 31 - It tells us that he limps away and has a memo and a memory as he is lame. Now there is no reason to look upon this as a reproach, you know Paul had a thorn in the flesh.

Charles Wesley's great hymn - come oh thou traveler unknown, whom still I hold, but cannot see.

My company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee.  
With thee all night, I mean to stay, and wrestle til the break of day.  
My prayer and power with God, the grace unspeakable I now receive.  
Through faith, I see thee face to face, and live.  
In vain, I have not wept and strove, thy nature and thy name is love.

Are you looking for power tonight / Every preacher needs / power with God and with men. And right here in this incident in Jacob's life, I think power can be found. Now we can go over the things in the Bible very hurriedly but here is a passage you could spend all night on. And not really exhaust the glorious truth here of this man.

Sometimes ~~men~~ wrestle with sorrow. William Taylor relates how he left home in Liverpool to go to Glasgow to preach. The last sight on which his eyes rested was his little daughter - held up at the window by her grandmother. As his carriage drove off, the child waved to the father, a fond farewell. Many a time during the trip on the railroad, he had a vision of that little girl. She rose up in his memory and filled his heart. But he was never to see her again. The next morning he had a telegram telling of her sudden death. It was a staggering blow. But as the years went by, that vision of the child waving him farewell came back to him. It seemed to him as though God had set her in the window of Heaven. To beckon him upward to his eternal home. I would not give that memory for all the gold on earth he said. I would not part with the inspiration which it stirs within him. For all that the world could bestow.

*Phillips Brooks "We never become truly spiritual by sitting down and wishing to become so. You must undertake something so great that you can not accomplish it unaided. It takes commitment!"*

Jacob's experience that night was a new knowledge of God. And that is life's greatest blessing. I've seen God face to face. Twenty years have gone by - and now the turning point had taken place in the history of his life. He is on the right road. As the moon looked down on Jabbok and Jacob was filled with dread, and we suddenly see the angel come and wrestle with him - and all night long the man nor the angel prevail. And the angel touched his thigh, and there his name was changed. And somehow tonight I wish that that mid-night wrestler from that brook would come down and cast upon us a mighty challenge. That we might desire our hearts to be revived.

33:4 Chapter 33 - Verse 4 - Esau ran and met him, embraced him, and kissed him. God had (disarmed) this brother and the lesson is a lesson for all of us to understand. It is an old story - but it is good for modern times. Why not go back to it. God has not changed and man has not changed. But the values here are permanent. Jacob's night of wrestling perhaps may be the challenge that you need to discover.

*Prodigal son uncertain about the Reception - Father rushed with compassion, put his arms around his neck, kissed him, received back Fellowship -*

These ~~three mighty steps~~ in the progress of Jacob's spiritual life - first at Bethel he in a dream saw a ladder from earth to Heaven. And what a glory to see that far away place on high with God at the top. With a stone for a pillow. And the angels moving up and down that ladder.

V. 2 and V. 1 of this chapter, we discover that the angels had attended him - before him and behind him. This is no longer a dream by night - but is clear in the calm view of day. The angel bands were camped before and behind, and they kept him safe.

V. 30 - We have this third and final thing in his spiritual life when Jehovah's angel came near and approaches his fellowman. Here is terror and here is joy. And yet, Jacob found that he had hold of the Almighty. And there was a revelation of divine love. There was weeping and wrestling as that man saw God face to face and did live.

This is still the law of advance in divine life. In the Christian life, our steps toward Heaven must be taken one by one. Now the path begins with him at Bethel when he sees that ladder and he continues until a more perfect day when he has that encounter at Jabbok.

Now Jacob desired to know the name of the angel that he might somehow honor him. Judges 13:17. But that request was denied. That he might not be too proud of his conquest.

What good will it do thee to know that. And the discovery was reserved until he taught to call him Shiloh.

But instead of telling him his name, he gave him his blessing. And he blessed him

and opening all the secret places of the heart and let God's infinite eyes search. Even Jesus found great strength during the great trials by stealing away to the solitude and place of quiet.

There is no joy, or duty, conflict, or sorry of life, that we could not handle better if we would prepare our hearts with prayer.

If we would but kept out of the path of temptation that we might discern between good and evil.

If a young man or a young girl needs the strength to pass his trial or temptation - they need to pray.

If a hard-working man in the business world would succeed - he needs to give his life over wholly to prayer. He will not be disappointed. The aged pilgrim will find that even in the last days of life the best, even standing in the shadow of death, there will be peace when he prays.

If anyone does not know by personal experience how much of Heaven is promised that can be secured, tonight I hope that you will get this lesson from Jacob.

As Jacob is alone, nothing broke the silence of a night, save the water running down the mountain river, and an occasional call of a herdsman keeping his own flocks in the distance. In all of these hundreds of years there has not been a time when a solitary man could spend the night where Jacob was without peril to his life. There was an intense desire, and has been for men to explore that and to tell the story of the wanders. In Jacob's time there were robbers, murderers, lions, wandering around.

Here in this place was this troubled, fear-stricken man bows down to the earth.