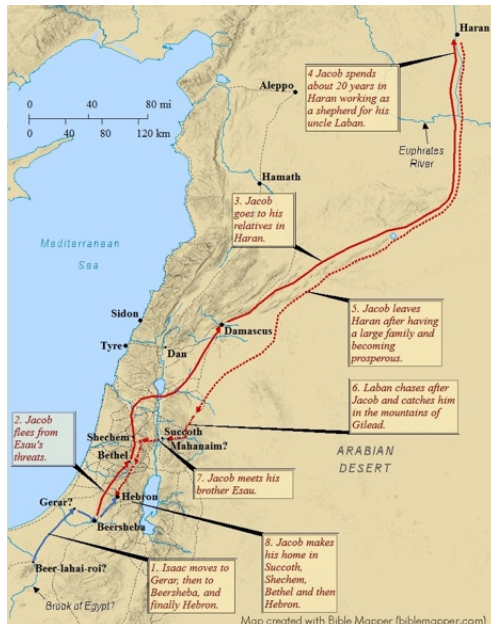


Genesis Lesson 54

Sometimes
God has to
do
something
drastic to
get our
attention.

Because
He loves
us.

HE LOVES US
TOO MUCH
TO LET US
STAY WHERE
WE ARE.



Genesis 32

1 Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him.

2 When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is the camp of God!" So he named that place Mahanaim.

3 Jacob sent messengers ahead of him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

4 He instructed them: "This is what you are to say to my master Esau: 'Your servant Jacob says, I have been staying with Laban and have remained there till now.

5 I have cattle and donkeys, sheep and goats, menservants and maidservants. Now I am sending this message to my lord, that I may find favor in your eyes.' "

6 When the messengers returned to Jacob, they said, "We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

**A plan
born out
of fear
and not
faith.**

**The
Christian
life is a
process.**



**All our life we
will need God
to chisel
things out of
our life that
shouldn't be
there.**

Gal 5:17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

**He has
forgotten.**

Deuteronomy 7:18

18 But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt.

Deuteronomy 15:15

15 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you.

Deuteronomy 8:2

2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years...

Gen 32:7 In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people who were with him into two groups, and the flocks and herds and camels as well.

8 He thought, "If Esau comes and attacks one group, the group that is left may escape."

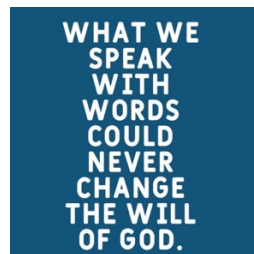
9 Then Jacob prayed,

Psalm 95:6 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

7 for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care...



**9 Then Jacob prayed, "O God of my father Abraham, God of my father Isaac, O LORD, who said to me, 'Go back to your country and your relatives, and I will make you prosper,'
10 I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. I had only my staff when I crossed this Jordan, but now I have become two groups.
11 Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children.**



**11 Save me, I pray, from the hand of my brother Esau, for I am afraid he will come and attack me, and also the mothers with their children.
12 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.' "**



**13 He spent the night there, and from what he had with him he selected a gift for his brother Esau:
14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,**

15 thirty female camels with their young, forty cows and ten bulls, and twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

16 He put them in the care of his servants, each herd by itself, and said to his servants, "Go ahead of me, and keep some space between the herds."

17 He instructed the one in the lead: "When my brother Esau meets you and asks, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and who owns all these animals in front of you?'

18 then you are to say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a gift sent to my lord Esau, and he is coming behind us.' "

19 He also instructed the second, the third and all the others who followed the herds: "You are to say the same thing to Esau when you meet him.

20 And be sure to say, 'Your servant Jacob is coming behind us.' " For he thought, "I will pacify him with these gifts I am sending on ahead; later, when I see him, perhaps he will receive me."

**WE DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO TRUST
GOD AND
WAIT ON HIS
TIMING.**

21 So Jacob's gifts went on ahead of him, but he himself spent the night in the camp.

22 That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

23 After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions.



Genesis 32:

24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

Genesis 18:1–2

1 Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

2 So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

Genesis 19:1

1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening..

Hosea 12

4 Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; he wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, and there He spoke to us—

5 That is, the LORD God of hosts. The LORD is His memorable name.



Here's how it often works: You're in the midst of some challenging situation in life—a crisis at work or something with your marriage or a health scare. You do everything you can to manage it, to make it work. But what has worked for you before, doesn't work anymore.

No matter how hard you try, no matter how much you struggle, it is like the deck is stacked against you. It is like someone behind the scenes is purposely making this as difficult as can be.

Finally, everything falls apart. You lose the job, your marriage, your health. You're crushed. There's no more fight left in you. What has always worked won't work anymore, and you have nothing left. You just spent a terrible night at the Jabbok River. You just wrestled with God.

When I was in high school, I helped teach life-saving classes at our local swimming pool. Actually, I wasn't the teacher exactly. I was the victim. I was the drowning person in need of rescue. I'd go out into the deep end and play the part of the frantic, drowning man. I'd splash and gasp and cry for help and some junior high kid would swim out toward me. If he got too close, I'd latch onto him in a death grip, my arms and legs twined desperately around his.

If it had been the real deal, we both would have drowned. The way to save a drowning man who is conscious and panicky, is to stop just beyond his reach, tuck and dive deep under him, and from behind him, with your hands firmly gripping his legs and sides, climb up his body.

Then you throw your arm across his chest and grab him hard in his arm pit. It hurts.

It's supposed to. It's supposed to hurt enough, in fact, that he goes limp. He then stops fighting you and lets you carry him to safety. In other words, the only way to save him is to defeat him first—even hurt him if you must.

That is what God did with Jacob there by the Jabbok. He conquered him in order to save him.

