

Twenty years has passed since Jacob left his brother Esau, departing on difficult terms of strife and deception. Now, upon leaving Laban and his country, Jacob heads home to Canaan to face Esau and begin his life afresh with two wives, eleven sons, and many possessions, in order to obey God and see the fruition of the covenant first given to Abraham.

Genesis 32:1-32

Jacob

Wrestles

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Life is full of adversity, and some times even adversaries. Because of the fall we can expect troubles of various kinds. While it's easy to recognize the physical struggles we may have, we forget the greatest adversities faced are those spiritual in nature.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT comes to mind when you consider the idea of "spiritual warfare"?

HOW have you experienced the *physical* and/or *spiritual* affects of sin in your life?

CAN you **DESCRIBE** a time when you "wrestled" with the Lord over something, and **WHAT** was the outcome of this experience?

Genesis 32:1-32 Read Genesis 32:1-32

Jacob

Wrestles

OBSERVATION

As the chapter begins, who does Jacob meet (vs. 1-2)?

After the particular meeting, what does Jacob name this location?

What can you observe about Jacob's specific instructions to the messengers he sends forth to meet his brother Esau in vs. 3-5?

What do Jacob's messengers discover in vs. 6?

How does Jacob respond to this news (vs. 7-12)?

What does vs. 20 reveal about Jacob's motivation in sending Esau this present (vs. 18)?

As Jacob is left alone, with whom does he wrestle and for how long (vs. 24)?

What happens to Jacob in vs. 25?

What does Jacob demand in vs. 26, and what response does the man give in vs. 28?

What does Jacob call this location and for what reason (vs. 30)?

INTERPRETATION

What other location has Jacob encountered angels of God? See 28:12.

After encountering the angels of God, Jacob names this place. What is the meaning of this name in vs. 1-2, and what might be the significance be in relation to the two battles he is about to face?

How does vs. 9-12 seem to reveal a change in Jacob's character? How does this contrast previous decisions?

Who is the man Jacob wrestles with and how is this possible? Consider John 1:18.

Who really seems to be in control (winning) this wrestling match, and why do you think so?

Explain the significance of the name change Jacob receives. Consider what each name means and what Jacob has done/accomplished to receive this new title.

Make a connection between what is revealed about Jacob's thoughts in vs. 20 and the outcome of his wrestling match with God in vs. 30. What are the two "wrestling matches" and explain their outcomes.

APPLICATION

What might you consider to be the "wrestling matches" you're facing in life and/or with God?

What needs to be surrendered unto Him so that you might find victory in the wrestling?