

Jacob (Genesis 28:10-22;32:23-31)

SERMON NOTES

I. Introduction

- a. A personal struggle
- b. Jacob's life hinges on two important encounters that would reorient and transform him

II. The first encounter (Genesis 28:10-22)

- a. God can transform our place of difficulty into His sanctuary.
- b. God's gift requires a response
- c. God wants to redeem our worst parts

III. The second encounter (Genesis 32:23-31)

- a. Don't be afraid to struggle with God
 - Struggle leads to surrender
 - We are transformed through surrender, realizing our complete dependence on God's kindness
- b. God knows that we cannot be transformed without facing our old selves, the trauma and pain we've both experienced and caused. You cannot become the new creation God is making you without confessing the old one.
- c. When we truly see God, we cling to Him, realizing He has been with us for our good, to bless us

IV. Conclusion

- a. The best way for you to face the mountain (of reconciliation, addiction, disease, dysfunction, etc.) in front of you is to lean into the limp.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Sharing Life Together

1. In what ways are you currently struggling? How can those closest to you come alongside you?

Reflecting on the Message Together

1. Describe your "certain places" that have been difficult.
2. In what ways has God transformed your difficult places into opportunities to SEE Him?
3. In what ways have you made your faith your own?
4. Jacob the grasper became Jacob the giver. What part of you might God be wanting to redeem?
5. How can your struggle with God lead to surrender?
6. What pain in your past do you need to face?
 - Remember, we're not defined by that pain, but by the love of our God who subjected Himself to the pain of the cross to defeat death and set us free!
7. In what areas in your life can you look back and see the presence and blessing of God?
8. What mountain (of reconciliation, addiction, disease, dysfunction, etc.) are you staring at? How can you lean into the limp and surrender to God's strength in your life?