

Sermon Notes

HIStory and Your Story

September 28-29th, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **HIStory and Your Story**
- This series we go through the major events and people of the Bible. (We will miss a lot!!)
 - o Read your Bible for yourself. If you believe it and do it, your life will change for the better.
- **Jacob**
 - o Just like his grandfather, Abraham, Jacob gets a new name. His new name will be Israel!
 - o But first, there must be a transformation. Jacob is not necessarily a good guy.
- Quick overview of Jacob:
 - o Younger of two sons of Isaac. Favoritism. Jacob takes Esau's birthright and Esau's blessing. Jacob flees but has a God encounter. Prospers, but is tricked too! Comes home after 20 years. Has another God encounter. Esau welcomes him. Eventually Jacob ends up in Egypt where he dies.
- Let's look at the two major God encounters:
- **Genesis 28:10-22**
 - o Jacob was messed up. God has a plan for messed up people! This involves not staying so messed up!
 - o Jacob sets up a stone (**v18**). Mark and remember the good things God has done!
 - o Jacob's vow (**v20-22**).
 - Jacob honors God by returning a tenth. This is how we should give. Out of reverence and thankfulness, trusting in God's promises.
 - o God has a plan for you, even if you are in a homeless – running for your life – phase like Jacob.
 - Learn the ways of God so you can build your house on the rock. **Matthew 7:24-27**
 - o Jacob prospers in his 20 years with Laban. Then God tells him to go home.
- **Genesis 32:22-30**
 - o Jacob is still quite terrified of Esau. Especially when he hears **Genesis 32:3-8!**
 - o Ever been really scared? Jacob has a lot to lose and he is terrified.
 - o Jacob prays, **Genesis 32:9-12**.
 - Great prayer. Jacob humbles himself and quotes God back to Him.
 - o Jacob wrestles with God, **Genesis 32:22-30**.
 - Jacob takes this as a theophany!
 - In his great crisis, Jacob wrestles with God, (**v26**). Opposite of Adam hiding.
 - Jacob wouldn't give up, even when injured.
 - Jacob knew where his blessing was going to come from!
 - Jacob's greatest attribute was that he was an overcomer. He fought and didn't give up!!
- If you are in a crisis, don't let go of God until he blesses you!!
 - o Two kinds of hurting/struggling people: those who run from God and those who run to God.
 - o Two kinds of prosperous people: those who stay thankful and those who stray from God.
 - Take the best of both!!
- If you need a breakthrough, don't be afraid to struggle with God!! Don't quit until you get your blessing!
 - o True for you. True for us as a church. True for the whole Body of Christ.
 - o Don't quit. **Hebrews 10:29**
- Pray for each other before you finish up!