

Bridgeway Community Church
Pastor Dr. David Anderson
September 05, 2021

I Saw Esau

Fight for Your Breakthrough

INTRODUCTION

“I’m going to challenge you today to fight for your breakthrough so you can elevate to the next level of purpose that God has for you.”

Jacob was the chosen vessel by God through which the Abrahamic blessing or covenant would flow. The lineage would go from Abraham, then to Isaac, and then through Jacob to Joseph, all the way through the generations to Jesus.

Question: If Jacob was a deceiver and a cheat, then why would God make Jacob his man through which the world would be blessed. Why not Esau?

Answer: God anoints and appoints who he wants and works through flawed individuals for his divine purposes without human approval.

Isaiah 55:9 NIV

[God speaking] As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

“Let’s see how God worked with Jacob to get him on track from his deception to his destiny!”

“There were three things that God had to get out of Jacob’s way before he could elevate him to the next level of purpose that God had for him. There may be some things that God has to get out of your way that’s keeping you from the destiny that God has for you.”

PROPHETIC WORD

“You may be in a place where you feel like you are fighting with God. I am not talking about fighting with the devil. I’m talking about actually struggling with God and I want you to know that’s okay. God is preparing you for your destiny. He is sharpening you

for your life's legacy and my word to you today is fight for your breakthrough...Now is NOT the time for you to give up. This is the time to press in. This is the time to press on. This is your moment! Sometimes God has to get you alone to do his perfect work."

"Jacob had somethings moved out of his way so that God could have Jacob to himself."

1. The first thing God had to get out of Jacob's way were his GIFTS!

Genesis 32:21 (NIV 84)

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

Jacob had been sending gifts ahead to Esau hoping it would buy him some favor with his brother.

Question: What do you do when you cannot rely on your giftedness to get you through anymore?

"Some of you are known more for your gifts than for your character."

"It is easier to hide behind what we do and what we have, than to rely on the character of who we are."

"People begin to relate to our gifts more than they relate to us."

"People will meet & greet you because of your gifts and what you have to offer maybe never really wanting to know YOU!"

We send our gifts ahead for acceptance. Jacob sent ahead all of his gifts hoping to be accepted by his brother who he believed wanted to kill him.

Question: What happens when your gifts are no longer accepted? What happens when your gifts are no longer enough?

Jacob's gifts were gone, and guess what he was left with? HIMSELF!!

Some of you are still hiding behind your gifts and your talents to be accepted and what God is saying to you today, "People may love you for your gifts, but I love you for who you are!" Don't ever get that twisted!

2. The second thing God had to get out of Jacob's way was his GROUPS!

Genesis 32:22 (NIV 84)

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

His GROUPS of people, his family members - wives, all of his family were now gone. He sent them across the river bed. Jacob sent ahead of himself the most important in his life - Leah and Rachel.

The story of Rachel & Leah is in Genesis 29:1-30

Jacob went to the house of Laban, an uncle, brother to his mother.

Jacob laid eyes on Rachel, Laban's youngest daughter and fell in love at first sight.

Laban made a deal with Jacob that if he worked for 7 years as an indentured servant then he would give him Rachel's hand in marriage. Jacob agreed.

After 7 years, Jacob is ready to marry Rachel.

The ceremony ensues as his woman is all covered. Now it is time to take his new bride into his tent. They sleep together as a couple.

Jacob opens the tent to let in the morning light and sees that it was not Rachel he just slept with, but the older sister Leah!

Jacob runs out and confronts the father, Laban.

Laban, the father, admits that he tricked Jacob because he needed to marry his eldest daughter first before the younger one. But he promised to give him Rachel if he would work for another 7 years!

The trickster got tricked!

Remember, Jacob was the YOUNGEST but he tricked his OLDER brother Esau.

Now, Jacob was tricked into marrying Leah the OLDER sister before he could get Rachel the YOUNGEST sister.

“God knows how to rectify matters, doesn’t he!? Jacob got what he deserved. The one who was the deceiver, just got deceived. The player got played!”

This is why we leave vengeance to the Lord because he knows how to rectify things. All things will be made right in God’s timing.

3. The third thing that God had to get out of Jacob’s way were his GOODS!

Genesis 32:23 (NIV 84)

After he [Jacob] had sent them [his family] across the stream, he sent over all his possessions.

ONCE everything was gone away, Jacob is left with himself.

Genesis 32:24 (NIV 84)

So Jacob was left alone, and A MAN wrestled with him till daybreak.

Question: What happens when you are left alone?

There’s some work that can only be done when it’s just you and God alone.

It is just us alone with our own thoughts, our own demons, our own inner movies & memories.

Question: What happens when it is just you and God?

“I wondered if this was the moment that Jacob saw Esau.”

Did he play the tapes in his head about how he deceived his brother? Did he play the movie back in his mind about how he swindled his twin out of his birthright and his blessing?

He can't hid behind his gifts, his groups or his goods. It is just he, his character and his God.

Jacob now finds himself wrestling for his life.

He was wrestling with an angel, or a man, as the text says. He seems to discover that this battle was not just with any man, but the man of God.

“Angel” means “messenger” - so hearing from a messenger of God is essentially hearing from God or his representative.

Some say, the pre-incarnate Christ!

What we do know is that Jacob was indeed in some way, wrestling with God.

Later in verse 30 Jacob says he saw the face of God:

Genesis 32:30 (NIV 84)

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face and yet my life was spared.'

In Hosea 12:3-5 this wrestling match is also identified with Jacob wrestling with God

Hosea 12:3-5 NIV84

In the womb he [Jacob] grasped his brother's [Esau] heel; as a man he struggled with God. ⁴He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor. He found him at Bethel and talked with him there--⁵the Lord God Almighty, the Lord is his name of renown.

Question: Have you ever wrestled, struggling with God?

Question: What are you and God “talking” about these days?

Question: What are you and God “battling” over these days?

Genesis 32:25-26 (NIV 84)

When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched and he wrestled with the man. ²⁶Then the man said, 'Let me go, for it is daybreak.'. But Jacob replied, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me.'

Jacob fought for his blessing! Jacob had some fight in him! Jacob knew that this battle was for his destiny. He knew that this was for his future, his family, his legacy...This was a tournament that would turn him toward his purpose!

Genesis 32:27 (NIV 84)

The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'Jacob, he answered. ²⁸Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." ²⁹Jacob said, 'Please tell me your name.' But he replied, 'Why do you ask my name?' Then he blessed him there.

In other words, my name is not important right now, but YOUR NEW NAME is! In order to get you onto your purpose, you need a NEW NAME CHANGE!

NAME CHANGE

Jacob's name was changed to ISRAEL which means CONTENDER, WRESTLER, FIGHTER OF GOD, or TRIUMPHANT OF GOD! In other words, God wants us to have the victory.

"God did not want Jacob stuck in his deceitful character but to move toward the destiny of one who is triumphant over all things so that he could carry on the Abrahamic covenant and blessing through out generations till we get to Jesus. God wanted him to have the victory."

Jacob's name was changed BEFORE he met Esau, the one Jacob feared would kill him.

"The reason why Esau didn't kill Jacob was because he was no longer Jacob. He was now Israel. A shift had happened. A conversion had happened. He had moved from a path of being a deceiver to a path of his destiny...when Esau met Jacob, he may have thought he was meeting Jacob, he may have been forgiving of Jacob, but the reality is Jacob had been changed from Jacob to Israel. He had been changed from a deceiver to now a fighter and a triumphant man for God."

"Jacob was now standing in his PURPOSE! Your purpose will protect you."

Even though Jacob deserved wrath, he received forgiveness because of his purpose.

"When God CALLED you, when God CHOSEN you, you no longer get what you deserve. You get what your anointing requires!"

Jacob's new name was now his anointing.
Jacob's new name was now his authority.
Jacob's new name was now his assignment.

You are totally immortal until God has fulfilled his purpose in you which no man can thwart.

Jacob got what his anointing required, not what his actions required.

We serve a God who is in the name changing business

You WERE this, but now you ARE this!
From an Abram to an Abraham
From a Simon, to a PETER
From a Sinner, to a SAINT
From Lost, to FOUND
From Dead, to ALIVE
From blind, to now you SEE

“Once God meets you and you have an encounter with him, He will change you from who you WERE to who you WILL BECOME!”

“He meets you right where you are, but like Max Lucado says he loves you too much to leave you that way!”

“God doesn't just relate to who we are now. He sees the whole picture and he relates to who he knows you will become.”

Right now you maybe **BROKEN**, but God sees you as **WHOLE**
Right now you maybe **SICK**, but God sees you as **HEALED**
Right now you maybe **FEARFUL**, but God sees you are **COURAGEOUS**
Right now, Jacob, you are **TRICKSTER**, but you will be **TRIUMPHANT!**

Genesis 32:30-31 (NIV 84)

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘It is because I saw God face to face and yet my life was spared.’³¹The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel and he was limping because of his hip.

“It's better to walk with a limp and have purpose, than to walk meaninglessly without a limp!”

“God dislocated Jacob's hip as a permanent reminder of his need to depend on him. Just like Paul had a “thorn in the flesh” as a permanent tattoo of God's grace, Jacob

had his own “tattoo of grace”...a dislocated hip.”

Genesis 32:32 (NIV 84)

Therefore to this day Israelites do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob’s hip was touched near the tendon.”

CONCLUSION

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

3 Things God took out of Jacob’s way to deal with him at a deeper level of purpose. (NOT OUT OF HIS LIFE...Out of his WAY)

His **Gifts**

His **Groups** (of people)

His **Goods**

I didn’t come here today to tell you that you have to give up all these things, **but I am saying that God wants to be FIRST!**

FIRST, above your gifts

FIRST, above your groups (of people)

FIRST, above your goods

“God gave all three of these back to Jacob after he crossed over the the other side. But he crossed over a different man and left the old one behind.”

God wants to be first and He wants you to be in line with HIS purpose for you!

WE MUST FIGHT FOR WHAT IS FIRST!.

Romans 8:31 NIV

If God is for us, who can be against us?

“God put us first. Now he is asking you to put him first. Your breakthrough is right in front of you! But put God first and you to like Jacob will see the daylight! You will see the face of God in your circumstances when you put him first.”

“Your purpose will protect you, but first you have to come in line with God’s purpose for you.”

Exodus 20:3 KJV

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.