

Life Group Notes

Sunday 16 February 2020

Speaker: Liz Green

Series: Jacob's Story

Title: Wrestling Jacob

Passage: Genesis 32: 24-31

Read Genesis 32: 24-31

Jacob returns to his homeland and is wrestled by 'A Man' one night whilst alone. He doesn't give up his struggle until he is touched by the man and his hip is dislocated. We then see Jacob cling to the Man and demand a blessing. Jacob's name is changed and he receives his blessing.

Jacob is BROKEN

He only gives up the struggle when he is physically disabled. At this point, he recognises his spiritual need too and clings to the man (God)

We are like Jacob – we struggle against God because we want to do things our own way. God will not leave us as we are and is willing to wrestle with us until we submit to him. His touch is always an act of grace.

Jacob is RENAMED

Following his struggle, Jacob is renamed. His name reflects the fact that God has wrestled with him. He is given a new identity. We too have been given a new identity; Saint not Sinner, Son, Heir.... Confidence in our identity changes how we behave. God's people are to reflect God's values.

Jacob is BLESSED

Jacob demands a blessing and gets one! He started the wrestle physically strong and spiritually weak, he ends the wrestle physically weak but spiritually strong. His blessing is in the form of knowing God for himself, not just what he has to give. God's people are given the blessing of relationship with God.

Jacob's story is our story. When we were saved, we were given revelation of our brokenness, given a new name and identity and blessed with relationship with God.

Jacob's story is also Jesus' story, but he is the true and better Jacob. He wasn't broken in order to get him to surrender, but surrendered in order to be broken. He received a new identity, not for himself but for his followers. He wrestled for the blessing for his followers of relationship with the Father.

Questions

1. What is God wrestling you on at the moment? What does submission to him in it look like?
2. How can you live this week confident/reflecting your new identity? Think specifics. Are there areas of your life that you know you aren't living in reflection of your new identity?
3. How is your appetite for relationship with God? How can you encourage one another to be seeking God himself, not just what he gives.