

Sermon Questions for Life Groups

The Gospel According to Genesis

Reconciled at Last! (Gen. 33)

Pastor John Mahaffey

Sunday, October 18, 2015

These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions or family or personal devotions

1. Pastor John prayed specifically for the election? What resonated with you in that prayer?
2. As you consider Jacob's discipline and 'crippling' by God, he was assured of God's perseverance for him. Share hymns and scripture passages with each other that remind you of God's perseverance for His children.
3. The story in Genesis 33 is built on a change that came after God had wrestled with Jacob in chapter 32:
 - What is one problem that you have had to wrestle with God about a in your life? (It could be a sin, or something you didn't understand)
 - Did you learn to submit to God in this area, or is it still an area in which you are wrestling? Jacob could have returned to the promised land and avoided any meeting with Esau. Why was it necessary that he meet Esau?
4. Did it surprise you that Jacob went out in advance of the families to meet Esau directly himself? Is this the same Jacob that had, the night before planned to place his family in a sacrificial order?
5. What indications are there in this chapter that Jacob has reached the place of true repentance in regards to how he robbed Esau of his blessing?
6. In the story of Jacob's reunion with Esau, Jacob demonstrates a true change in attitude, but surprisingly, it is Esau (the pagan) who shows a truly Godly attitude towards his brother. Explain as many ways that he demonstrates apparent "Godliness" during his first meeting with Jacob in 20 years.
7. Has God been stirring your heart to be reconciled with someone? Are you prepared to pursue the difficult pathway? What do you think is holding you back from doing so?
8. Share with the others in your group about when you realized in your heart that you needed to be reconciled to God.

9. What is the importance of the title which Jacob gives to God in verse 20? How has he named God previously? (See 31:5, 42, 53; 32:9 and Psalm 63:1)

10. Why did Jacob return to lying after making amends with his brother? In the story of this chapter how far did Jacob live up to his new name Israel? Is it significant that he is still called by the old name? Recall the terms of his vow in 28:22. How far does your behavior match your Christian profession and express our new nature? (See Romans 7:20, 24, 25a)

11. Notice at the end of the chapter (vs. 17-18) that Jacob does not return to Bethel but settles in Succoth and Shechem. Of what significance is this? What does it point to about Jacob's obedience? How does the next chapter show how catastrophic this decision was?

12. Why do Christians sometimes revert to their old way of living?

13. How do God's names for you - saints - Sons - Heirs - make you feel?

14. Read Romans 7:7-25: In this passage we see a kind of Jekyll and Hyde situation with Paul and sin. Many of us can relate to this passage in our own lives.
 - Why do you believe that we allow the sin in us to take us over and make us do the things that we do not want to do?
 - How do you combat this nature when it is a part of your inner being?

14. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27: How could training in this way spiritually combat the sinful nature in oneself?