

## 10. Gently Broken by God

Genesis 32

### 1. God wrestles with us for our own good

#### a) Jacob is surrounded by problems

- Esau approaching with a small army! v7 – Jacob in great fear

#### b) His biggest problem is within

- Prays v9-12 – but relies on his own abilities to save him v13-21, v8,22
- Has been trying to get through life without God, or with a passing nod
- Our greatest problems are within when we sideline God

#### c) God is not prepared to let him go on

- God attacks him! Do we fear life's problems more than we fear God?
- Sometimes God has to wrestle us into a transformed life
- It is in the fight that God is working in us

### 2. You need to meet God in weakness

- 1<sup>st</sup> part - fighting to escape God. 2<sup>nd</sup> part – fighting to keep God
- God has reduced him to weakness in order to help him
- Instead of wrestling God away we need to:

#### a) Admit our weakness and guilt v27

- Name = character - "Jacob" = 'the deceiver' - an admission of guilt
- "Bless me" – recognises his own inability to bring blessing to himself
- You only get blessing from God on the basis of truth about yourself

#### b) Cling v26

- "I will not let you go" – knows God is his only hope
- He is a broken man with nothing to offer
- Christianity is coming empty-handed and clinging in faith to God
- When you are wrestling in the darkness, cling and you will find

#### i) You will be supported by God as you cling

- "While he lightly opposes us, he supplies invincible strength whereby we overcome" – Calvin

#### ii) You will receive blessing from God

- New name = internal change. The twister has been untwisted.
- "The sun rose above him" – a new day. Limping but blessed
- Keep clinging to God – the sun will rise

### 3. You can trust the God who became weak in order to bless

- v25 - Why couldn't God overcome Jacob? - Restraining his strength
- God the Son became weak so that Jacob could be blessed
- Later He would bear the crushing Jacob had deserved
- Trust him – He became weak in order to bring you blessing
- Trust him – He has borne the judgment blow, so every blow is for healing



# new life fellowship

SERVING JESUS CHRIST THE KING

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

### Notices

Sab 9<sup>th</sup> Prayer Time @ Mark & Judith's 8pm

Tue Bible Study - Ten Commandments - The 6th Commandment 8pm  
May & Seamus' home?

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Book and TearCraft evening in Milford 7pm-9pm

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Youth Event - Bready 8pm  
Volleyball tournament

Wed 26<sup>th</sup>-Sab 30<sup>th</sup> Wed-Sat @ 8pm  
Outreach Services in Bready Sab @ 7pm  
Theme "Our sufficient Saviour" - Speaker Rev. Philip Murphy

### Christianity Explored

A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sabbath 16th - Genesis 33

Opening Psalm: 89:1-6

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Oversight elders: Graham Fallows 048 7130 1641 William Lynch 048 7139 8002