

Story 11



Jacob Wrestles with an Angel

Genesis 32:1-33:11

The Bridge: God blessed Jacob with many children, servants, herds, and flocks (Genesis 30:25-41). On his way back to his homeland, Jacob encountered an Angel of God. The story illustrates the Sovereign protection of God and the responsibility of man.

The Story:

- When God told Jacob to go back to Canaan, Jacob feared Esau's anger over losing his birthright (Genesis. 31:3, 13).
- As he traveled, Jacob sent messengers ahead of his party telling Esau of his homecoming (Genesis 32:3-6). Upon hearing that Esau was on his way to meet him, Jacob became afraid and prayed to God reminding Him of His promise to him (Genesis 32:7-12).
- He then sent many gifts of livestock to his brother Esau to appease his anger (Genesis 32:13-21).
- After sending gifts to Esau, Jacob sent his wives, servants, and eleven sons across the river and placed them in a camp (Genesis 32:22-23).
- He then was left alone when he was confronted by an angel of the Lord. Jacob wanted God to bless him and protect him from his brother's anger; he wrestled all night with the angel holding tight, determined to persevere. When day broke, the angel gave in and blessed Jacob by changing his name from Jacob to Israel, which means "He who strives with God." Jacob left limping as a reminder of this (Genesis 32:24-32).
- When Jacob met Esau there was forgiveness and love. They lived in peace (Genesis 33:1-20).



How does what Jacob did to appease Esau's anger relate to our salvation?