

WHAT IS IN A NAME? ~ Genesis 32:22-32

→ Scripture Reading Gen. 32:24-28

INTRODUCTION

→Map

CROSSING THE RIVER AT NIGHT? ~ Genesis 32:22-24

[22] That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. [23] After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. [24] So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.

→Map

WRESTLING WITH GOD ~ Genesis 32:24-32

[24] So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. [25] When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. [26] Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

It was NOT from proud dominance that Jacob asked for blessing, but with tears. His request came when he was at the end of himself, helpless. "*I will not let you go unless you bless me*" was a tear-choked plea.

K Hughes

Hosea 12:3-4 (NET) In the womb he attacked his brother; in his manly vigor he struggled with God. [4] He struggled with an angel and prevailed; **he wept and begged for his favor**. He found God at Bethel, and there he spoke with him!

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

Genesis 27:35-36 (NIV) ..."Your brother came DECEITFULLY and took your blessing." [36] Esau said, "**Isn't he rightly named Jacob?** He has deceived me these two times: He took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!" Then he asked, "Haven't you reserved any blessing for me?"

A NAME CHANGE...

- Implied a change in CHARACTER
- Meant Submitting to AUTHORITY

[30] So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." [31] The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. [32] Therefore to this day the 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.

APPLICATION

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; **IT JUDGES** the **thoughts and attitudes of the heart**. [13] NOTHING in all creation is HIDDEN from God's sight. Everything is UNCOVERED and LAID BARE before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Genesis 32:12 (NIV) But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'"

James 1:22-25 (NET) But be sure you LIVE OUT the message and do NOT merely listen to it and so deceive yourselves. [23] For if someone merely listens to the message and does not live it out, he is like someone who gazes at his own face in a mirror. [24] For he gazes at himself and then goes out and immediately forgets what sort of person he was. [25] But the one who peers into the perfect law of liberty and fixes his attention there, and does NOT become a FORGETFUL LISTENER but one who **LIVES IT OUT** - he will be blessed in what he does.

APPLICATION

God took the initiative in WRESTLING with Jacob, not vice versa. God was bringing Jacob to the END of himself. Constable

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NET) So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away - look, what is new has come!

TAKE AWAY ??

JACOB...

- LET GO of everything
- HUNG onto God
- REFUSED to let go

The days of failure through his own power were ending, and the days of victory through weakness had begun. Hughes