

FORGIVENESS GRANTED ~ Genesis 33:1-20

→ Scripture Reading - Gen. 33:1-5

FACE TO FACE WITH ESAU ~ Genesis 33:1-4

[1] Jacob looked up and there was Esau, coming with his four hundred men; so he divided the children among Leah, Rachel and the two maidservants. [2] He put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph in the rear. [3] He himself went on ahead and bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother. [4] But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.

Genesis 25:23 (NIV) The LORD said to her, "**Two nations are in your womb**, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the **OLDER will serve the YOUNGER.**"

MEETING THE FAMILY ~ Genesis 33:5-11

[5] Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. "Who are these with you?" he asked. Jacob answered, "They are the children God has GRACIOUSLY given your servant." [6] Then the maidservants and their children approached and bowed down. [7] Next, Leah and her children came and bowed down. Last of all came Joseph and Rachel, and they too bowed down. [8] Esau asked, "What do you mean by all these droves I met?" "To find favor in your eyes, my lord," he said. [9] But Esau said, "I already have plenty, my brother. Keep what you have for yourself." [10] "No, please!" said Jacob. "If I have found favor in your eyes, ACCEPT this GIFT from me. For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably. [11] Please accept the PRESENT that was brought to you, for God has been gracious to me and I have all I need." And because Jacob INSISTED, Esau accepted it.

FINALLY! BACK IN THE LAND ~ Genesis 33:12-20

[12] Then Esau said, "Let us be on our way; I'll accompany you." [13] But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are tender and that I must care for the ewes and cows that are nursing their young. If they are driven hard just one day, all the animals will die. [14] So let my lord go on ahead of his servant, while I move along slowly at the pace of the droves before me and that of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir." [15] Esau said, "Then let me leave some of my men with you." "But why do that?" Jacob asked. "Just let me find favor in the eyes of my lord." [16] So that day Esau started on his way back to Seir. [17] Jacob, however, went to Succoth, where he built a place for himself and made shelters for his livestock. That is why the place is called Succoth. [18] After Jacob came from Paddan Aram, he ARRIVED SAFELY at the city of Shechem in Canaan and camped within sight of the city. [19] For a hundred pieces of silver, he bought from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem, the plot of ground where he pitched his tent. [20] There he set up an ALTAR and called it El Elohe Israel.

→Map

By purchasing LAND in Shechem Jacob showed that he regarded Canaan as his permanent home and the home of his descendants. Constable

TWO THINGS HAPPEN AT THE ALTAR

- Jacob Accepts his NEW Name
- Jacob Fulfills his VOW to God - Gen. 28:20

APPLICATION

→ **God's PLANS can NEVER be stopped by men - even Godless men**

Ezra 1:1 (NIV) In the first year of **Cyrus king of Persia**, in order to **FULFILL the WORD OF the LORD** spoken by Jeremiah, **the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia** to MAKE a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:

Proverbs 21:1 (NET) The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD like channels of water; **HE TURNS IT wherever HE wants.**

APPLICATION

Colossians 3:13-14 (NIV) Bear with each other and FORGIVE whatever grievances you may have against one another. **FORGIVE as the Lord FORGAVE you.** [14] And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

**Forgiveness = is giving up my RIGHT to HURT YOU for hurting me
REFUSING to Forgive means that I am seeking REVENGE in some way**

I MUST FORGIVE because

- I have been FORGIVEN much
- it sets me FREE
- it is COMMANDED

TAKE AWAY ??

Jacob HAD to meet Esau. Making things RIGHT and seeking RECONCILIATION had become a heart-necessity for Jacob. As Jacob had grown in grace, **his CONSCIENCE would not allow him to sidestep an attempt at reconciliation.** Meeting Esau was a spiritual necessity. K Hughes

Conscience - is our internal sense of RIGHT and WRONG

Hebrews 9:13-14 (NIV) The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. [14] How much more, then, will the **BLOOD OF CHRIST**, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **CLEANSE our CONSCIENCES from acts that lead to death, SO THAT we may serve the living God!**

HOW CAN WE HAVE A CLEAN CONSCIENCE?

- by ACCEPTING Jesus as Lord and Savior - Salvation
- by CONFESSING our sin when we fall - Sanctification