

— Genesis 32 —  
 Genesis Series 79  
**Jacob Wrestles with God**

Gn 32 <sup>1</sup> So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. <sup>2</sup> When Jacob saw them, he said, “This is God’s camp.” And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

<sup>3</sup> Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. <sup>4</sup> And he commanded them, saying, “Speak thus to my lord Esau, ‘Thus your servant Jacob says: “I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now. <sup>5</sup> I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.”’” <sup>6</sup> Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, “We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him.” <sup>7</sup> So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies. <sup>8</sup> And he said, “If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape.”

<sup>9</sup> Then Jacob said, “O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, ‘Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you’: <sup>10</sup> I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies. <sup>11</sup> Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. <sup>12</sup> For You said, ‘I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.’”

<sup>13</sup> So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother: <sup>14</sup> two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, <sup>15</sup> thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals. <sup>16</sup> Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, “Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive droves.”

<sup>17</sup> And he commanded the first one, saying, “When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, ‘To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these in front of you?’ <sup>18</sup> then you shall say, ‘They are your servant Jacob’s. It is a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.’” <sup>19</sup> So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, “In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him; <sup>20</sup> and also say, ‘Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us.’” For he said, “I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me.” <sup>21</sup> So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp. <sup>22</sup> And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had.

<sup>24</sup> Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. <sup>25</sup> Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.” But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!” <sup>27</sup> So He said to him, “What is your name?” He said, “Jacob.” <sup>28</sup> And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.” <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell me Your name, I pray.” And He said, “Why is it that you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there.

<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” <sup>31</sup> Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip. <sup>32</sup> Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob’s hip in the muscle that shrank.



► 1-2: When Jacob sees the angels of God, this is a sign that God is \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. Gn28.10-19). Jacob names the place Mahanaim (“dual camp”), because it is both \_\_\_\_\_ and Jacob’s camp.

► 3-8: Jacob sends messengers (“\_\_\_\_\_”) to his brother Esau. They return with ominous news: Esau is coming with \_\_\_\_\_ men. Jacob takes the precautionary measure of dividing into two companies (“\_\_\_\_\_”).

► 9-12: Jacob turns to God in prayer. He addresses the one \_\_\_\_\_ God, the God of his fathers. He alludes to God’s promises, faithfulness, and his \_\_\_\_\_ to Jacob. He confesses his \_\_\_\_\_. He makes his petition for \_\_\_\_\_. He reminds God of his \_\_\_\_\_ once again.

In all these elements, and in the very \_\_\_\_\_, we see Jacob's growing knowledge of and faith in God. This is the kind of prayer \_\_\_\_\_ will teach us to pray.

Mat 6 <sup>7</sup> "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. <sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

We tell God our needs that he already knows, because he is our \_\_\_\_\_, and he wants to hear it from us.

God loves it when we tell him our needs couched in the midst of his \_\_\_\_\_ promises and purposes in history.

God loves it when we remind him of his promises, of his word and his \_\_\_\_\_, of his character and his faithfulness, and what would be for his \_\_\_\_\_ in the future.

He knows we are thinking his thoughts after him and becoming more and more \_\_\_\_\_ him.

Think of Abraham (Gn 18.23-25), Moses (Ex 32.10-13; 33.1-3, 15-16), and Daniel (Dn 9.16-19), and follow their example.

► 13-23: Jacob makes one final strategic move – he sends presents in \_\_\_\_\_ to Esau. Then he sends his family across the Jabbok River.

► 24-29: In what must have seemed like the perfect ending to Jacob's life of one person after another fighting against him, a \_\_\_\_\_ shows up and begins wrestling with Jacob. As the fight goes on, Jacob realizes that the stranger is \_\_\_\_\_ appearing as a man, for with a touch he puts Jacob's \_\_\_\_\_ out of joint. Jacob says he will not let him go unless he \_\_\_\_\_ him. The strang-

er changes Jacob's name to \_\_\_\_\_ ("God strives"). Finally, the stranger \_\_\_\_\_ Jacob. What God is saying is that \_\_\_\_\_ is the one who has been wrestling with Jacob his whole life, and that he wrestles with each one of his \_\_\_\_\_, even as he did with his perfect \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, to make us \_\_\_\_\_ up fully into what it means to be God's sons and daughters. Our temptation is to view \_\_\_\_\_ as random and pointless, but they are \_\_\_\_\_ made by our Father. Trials are never \_\_\_\_\_, but when we are trained, it results in the peaceful \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness.

Heb 12 <sup>1</sup> [L]et us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls ... <sup>7</sup> If you endure [training], God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not [train]? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without [training], of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons ... <sup>11</sup> Now no [training] seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup> Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, <sup>13</sup> ... so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed.

► 30-32: Jacob calls the place Peniel ("face of \_\_\_\_\_"). As he limps forward, the \_\_\_\_\_ rises upon him.

► Let's come back to Jacob \_\_\_\_\_ to God, saying, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

Dt 30 <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; <sup>20</sup> that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers"