Genesis Chapter 33 Verses 1 – 2

* Ok, that’s a little *messed* up. I mean, if you’re Leah or the two maidservants, how does that make you feel? At any rate, it puts on display Jacob’s priorities. Rachel and Joseph were certainly the favorites. Interesting here…***he’s called Jacob.*** It was just the last night, the few verses before that God said to him, *“You shall no longer be called Jacob,”* but here…***Jacob***, why? Two *possible* reasons.
* One, it could be that Jacob had not yet shared with Rachel, with Leah, with his children, what had happened to him. That he had submitted to God and no longer was the ***trickster*** he was before. Would they have believed him, though? Perhaps he is referred to as Jacob again because we yet again find him ***strategizing at the expense of others***…kinda the definition of tricking…
* His name is changed from Jacob to Israel but interesting, throughout the remainder of the account of Genesis, we’ll see references to him go *back and forth.* But here’s another observation. Throughout the book of Genesis, Jacob is mentioned 171 times. 101 times before the night God changed his name…70 times after…He is referred to as Israel 40 times after the night God changed his name. ***This is mind blowing…***
* The old nature in Jacob is *dying off*, *fading away* as the his new nature **strengthens**…we see this as a pattern after Chapter 32 BUT notice this…70 times he is still referred to as the trickster and that reminds me what Jesus said to Peter, *“Forgive your brother 70 times…”* It ***harkens to the forgiveness and the mercy and the grace*** that we receive from God at our own redefinition…when we are born again by the blood of Jesus and our sins are forever forgiven!
* We still trick. We still fall. And yet now the sin in our lives ***hurts***…not just *others* like it did before…it hurts us now because the Spirit within us ***grieves*** the offense against God! And yet each time, *His forgiveness, His mercy, His grace*, ***He never fails***…**and that drives us to worship…and that worship progresses us even more towards maturity**…I mean truly, ***the ONLY thing that matures us in the Spirit is worship of God.*** And I’m not talking about signing…honoring God with our hearts, souls, mind and strength…that is worship…
* And another compelling and encouraging observation…after God changes his name in Chapter 32, *Israel* is called out 40 times…He is referred to as *Israel* from Chapter 32 to Chapter 50, **40 times.** Why does that encourage me? Because 40 is biblically a number of completion, or a number of a generation…***yes I’m still a mess but I’m not at Chapter 50 yet in my life!*** God is not through with me yet! And every time I’m an idiot and regress back to the trickster in my heart…and I exhale, repent and grieve, God reminds me…, *I’m not finished with you yet*…***get up…lets go.*** I love that!!
* There’s more here…like Jacob was yet *more Jacob* than he was *Israel* for the rest of his days and I don’t want that for my own life…inspires me if you will to ***be more of what God has done and God has redeemed then what I left behind***…although that man, my old nature, yet stays with me…anyway, we need to move on…Jacob sees Esau and Esau’s 400 men and places his family in terms of *importance…*

Genesis Chapter 33 Verse 3

* Ahhhh, nice! Look at that! New nature stuff! *Holy lunges!!* ***HA!!*** He crosses over before them! Different than before when he sent all of the livestock and his people first to appease Esau! **I like that.** He protects his family, he puts himself out there…this is *humility and responsibility* on display which is EXACTLY what the work of the touch of God does in **every** circumstance. THIS IS IT. This is what it looks like…someone takes responsibility in humility and moves forward. When is the last time you did that? Can you recall? I hope so if you’re a Christian. ***Or, are you a bit miserable in your own hidden heart***…why? Because you won’t take responsibility for what’s going on and you haven’t bowed to God in humility…if that’s you, you have my pity. I pray you mature…

Genesis Chapter 33 Verses 4 – 11

* In this culture, at this time, no one *accepted* a gift from an **enemy** and so by **offering** this gift Jacob is essentially saying, *“I am not your enemy,”* and by **accepting** this gift, Esau is essentially saying, *“You are not my enemy.”* The ***gift is the apology***, the catalyst to forgiveness and the ***receipt of that gift is the expression of forgiveness.*** It’s the same with the sacrifice Jesus made for the sin of the world. He was the gift offered to God to make peace, and the receipt of that gift on the part of the Father, marked by the resurrection of Jesus from the grave, is the expression of forgiveness by the Father, through Jesus.

Genesis Chapter 33 Verses 12 – 17

* This is *interesting.* What we see now is Jacob do everything he has to do to **not yoke again** with Esau. It’s very interesting. 2 Corinthians 6:14 says, *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteous with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”* It’s a **practical concept** in the midst of a **Biblical commandment.** If you have fire and ice in the same place, *one won’t survive…*
* Jacob has made *peace* but Esau wants to make a *place*…Jacob can’t do that. He is *Israel*…he belongs to God…and so he resists even though going home with Esau would have meant *earthly fortune*…***but Esau doesn’t love the Lord.*** That’s a big ***but!!*** And here’s something that Courson went into that I thought was so very important. Esau is a *diamond!* He is kind, he is affectionate, he is prosperous and he is considerate…he is a diamond! But, ***a diamond is dead!***
* There are some Christians out there, many in fact, that are mean, not affectionate, not very prosperous on their own and certainly not considerate…Courson calls them a *cabbage.* **HA!** Perhaps to me, a *carrot*…***but, cabbages and carrots are alive***…Esau had all the qualities you’d want in someone to mix your life with…except he was dead in the spirit…understanding closed to the things of God…and if you yoke an ox and a horse together, ***before long***…***the yoke is going to be broken as they struggle against each other…***
* So Esau returns on his long journey back to Seir while Jacob goes about 2 miles away, not back into Canaan because that’s where his brother is, but to a place that is beautiful and right around the corner and he is the first patriarch to ever build a house…and here he stays for years…perhaps 20…

Genesis Chapter 33 Verses 18 – 20

* He does finally make it back to the land of Canaan, to the promised land as God had commanded him and when he gets there he sets up an altar to God…just like his fathers, and calls its name, *“The Mighty God of Israel.”* God has brought him through so much…and yet there remains much more to be learned by Jacob…