

Curing Double Mindedness

Genesis Chapter 32

A man with one watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure.

Gen 32:1 **1) When Great Minds Don't Think Alike** vs 1-20

Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him.

- *Angels of God met him It's been 20 years since he has last seen them. Yet they had always been there. God is faithful. Whether we realize it or not God is at work in our lives. He is faithful.*
- *Ex. 2Kings 6:16 Elisha & Servant when surrounded by king of Aram "Those who are with us are more than with them."*

Gen 32:2 Jacob said when he saw them, "This is God's camp." So he named that place **Mahanaim**.

- *Mahanaim means "Two Hosts" "Two Companies" This is the second time or second host of angels.*
- *Mahanaim is at the Jabbok river where two streams One stronger than the other form the Jabbok river and become one and eventually reach the Jordan River.*

Gen 32:3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

- *Prov 28:9 "Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise [men] turn away wrath."*
- *Prov 15:1 "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."*
- *Jacob will show the*

Gen 32:4 He also commanded them saying, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: 'Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now;

Gen 32:5 I have oxen and donkeys {and} flocks and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor (GRACE) in your sight.'"

- *Sent messenger to tell Esau that he is coming bearing gifts. To find grace. Trying to buy grace.*

Gen 32:6 The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

- *Picture this, the men return saying we didn't get all the way there before we ran into Esau who was coming this way to meet you ...With 400 men!*

Gen 32:7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and the herds and the camels, into **two companies**;

Gen 32:8 for he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape."

- *Divides his possessions into two companies so as to hopefully loose only ½ his stuff.*
 - *Double Minded -- He wants to Go Home and Run Away at the same time. He is hedging his bet.*
 - *Double Minded = Twice or Two and Souled or two souled or two minded*
 - *James 1:8 "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."*
 - *Jas 4:8: "Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."*
 - *Paul's Example in Romans 7*
- Exmples of problems Christians can have if Double Minded*
- *Praying with doubt James 1:5-8*
 - *Hearing W/O Doing James 1:22-25*
 - *Biased Fellowship James 2:2*
 - *Selective Obedience James 2:8-13*
 - *Faith W/O Works James 2:14-26*
 - *Unbridled Tongue James 3:9*
- *Jacob will pray. The prayer will be very heartfelt and sincere but the interesting thing is that he isn't requesting from God how to deal with Esau but he is telling God here is my plan, will you bless it?*

Gen 32:9 Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD, who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,'

Gen 32:10 I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant; for with my staff {only} I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become **two**

companies.

- *Why 2 companies. Promise to Isaac was Esau will be one people and Jacob will be one people.*
- *Isaac's blessing in Gen 28:3 said that Jacob would be a (singular) company of peoples.*
- *Gen 32:7 we see that because of fear, Jacob divided the company into two.*

Gen 32:11 "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me {and} the mothers with the children.

Gen 32:12 "For You said, 'I will surely prosper you and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be numbered.' "

- *Sincere, Humble, Praying God's Word*
- *Tells history Left with only a staff but returns with 2 companies. That is a Miracle. That is watching God do something. That is what we want to see in our lives. "God take this simple man/woman and make something. For your glory."*

Gen 32:13 So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a present for his brother Esau:

- *Present = bribe Jacob just finished praying God help and God's promise but he lasts in this faith for only until he finishes praying. Then he takes things in his own hands and sends a bribe.*

Gen 32:14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

Gen 32:15 thirty milking camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

Gen 32:16 He delivered {them} into the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on before me, and put a space between droves."

- *Sets his bribe in a manner that reaches Esau in waves*

Gen 32:17 He commanded the one in front, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these {animals} in front of you belong?'

Gen 32:18 then you shall say, '{These} belong to your servant Jacob; it is a present sent to my lord Esau. And behold, he also is behind us.' "

Gen 32:19 Then he commanded also the second and the third, and all those who followed the droves, saying, "After this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;

Gen 32:20 and you shall say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob also is behind us.' " For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me. Then afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."

- *The picture is these waves of animals and Esau taking note of how large the numbers were and they keep coming wave after wave. And each time the herdsmen would say "These are a gift to you from Jacob. And Jacob is back there somewhere."*
- *In the emptying Jacob only at best hopes that he will be accepted. He doesn't know for sure. As the Lord empties us, with that alone we can only hope to be accepted. But the place of emptiness is*

Gen 32:21 **2) The Two Minds Become One** vs 21-32

So the present passed on before him, while he himself spent that night in the camp.

Gen 32:22 Now he arose that same night and took his two wives and his two maids and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

Gen 32:23 He took them and sent them across the stream. And he sent across whatever he had.

- *Jacob has done all he could but it leaves him restless. He cannot sleep. In the middle of the night he feels the need to wake his wives and children and send them with all his remaining possessions across the stream.*

Gen 32:24 Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

- *Left Alone* 20 years earlier he was alone once before.
- *This process God takes us through is very interesting.*
 - 20 years ago He realizes a birthright and blessing
 - 20 years ago He is alone and with little and little hope / direction
 - 20 years ago He receives salvation (acknowledges God at Bethel)
 - For the last 20 years he is taught discipline and discernment
 - Then he is emptied again with only one hope (The Promise of God)
 - At this point he wrestles with God and God prevails and Jacob becomes governed by God. Jesus becomes Lord.
- *Wrestling = to get dusty (something about wrestling w/ God concerning Direction that His will is done)* 52

Gen 32:25 When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him.

Gen 32:26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

Gen 32:27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

Gen 32:28 He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."

- *Israel = Compound word that uses the name of God "El". Whenever a name uses "El" and is compounded with a verb, as in this case, the name shows an action that is attributed to God. "El" means God and "Isra" means to govern or rule or prevails or commands. So Israel means God Governs or God Rules.*
- *Some margins say Israel means prince of God. Yes he is a prince but the meaning truly is God rules.*
- *We see that at this point in Jacob's life that he will from this point on be Governed by God=Israel.*

Gen 32:29 Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there.

Gen 32:30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for {he said,} "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved."

Gen 32:31 Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his thigh.

Gen 32:32 Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.

- *20 years earlier Jacob met the God of Abraham & Isaac. He entered that covenant. We likewise enter a covenant with God through repentance of our sin and believing upon Jesus Christ.*
- *There is a discipline process for the believer and every believer will wrestle with God as to who governs or rules the will of man.*
- *Luke 14:26,27,33 speak of being Christ's disciple. Hating own life, taking up his cross, forsaking all.*
- *Jesus was an example of this war of the will in the Garden of Gethsemane.*
 - *Previously Purposed to do the Lords Will* Jn 5:30
 - *Conflict will Come*
 - *When in conflict He prayed* Matt 26
 - *He remained in prayer until He found the God's will 3x* Matt 26
 - *He arose and Did the will of the Father*

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