

The Reluctant Reunion

Genesis Chapter 33

Proverbs 18:19 “A brother offended [is harder to be won] than a strong city: and [their] contentions [are] like the bars of a castle.”

Gen 33:1 **1) The Brother's Reunion** vs 1-11

Then Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids.

Gen 33:2 He put the maids and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last.

- *Bilhah and Zilpah and their children first, then Leah and her children, then Rachel and Joseph.*
- *This favoritism is from Abraham and will be upon Jacob's children.*

Gen 33:3 But he himself passed on ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

Gen 33:4 Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

- *Reconciliation - might take 20 years. It takes a humbling*

Gen 33:5 He lifted his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

Gen 33:6 Then the maids came near with their children, and they bowed down.

Gen 33:7 Leah likewise came near with her children, and they bowed down; and afterward Joseph came near with Rachel, and they bowed down.

Gen 33:8 And he said, "What do you mean by all this company which I have met?" And he said, "To find favor in the sight of my lord."

- *In this culture if the gift is accepted then forgiveness is complete and there is no more ill feelings.*
- *Never is a gift received from an enemy. So Esau is not Jacob's enemy.*

- *Forgiveness Matt 18:24-35*
 - *Humble - knowing our inability to make it right*
 - *Submitted - putting yourself under the mercy of the one who can grant mercy*
 - *Acceptance - agreeable to any conditions of the offended*
 - *Thankfulness - showing appreciation and gratitude towards the mercy giver*
 - *Changed Heart - showing the same measure of mercy towards others.*

Matthew 18:35 "So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

Gen 33:9 But Esau said, "I have plenty, my brother; let what you have be your own."

- *Plenty (KJV=enough) rab means "much"*

Gen 33:10 Jacob said, "No, please, if now I have found favor in your sight, then take my present from my hand, for I see your face as one sees the face of God, and you have received me favorably.

Gen 33:11 "Please take my gift which has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have plenty." Thus he urged him and he took {it.}

- *2X Jacob has declared God's Grace in his life. Esau hasn't yet recognized it. You can identify where people are with the Lord in very simple conversation. If you throw out God, Jesus, Sin, Repent, Church you will be able to tell a persons spiritual condition by their response to these words.*
- *Example: Sharing the Gospel on the streets I'll ask, "Do you consider yourself a good person?" Their response is telling. A non-Christian is proud and says yes. A Christian has been humbled and usually responds with a no or some statement declaring the grace of God that has changed them.*
- *Plenty (KJV=enough) kol means "everything"*

- *Jn 3:35 "The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand."*
- *Jn 16:15 "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you."*
- *We as Christians have everything. Everything in the sense that our Lord and God has everything. We are to trust our Lord for our needs and wants, our desires and goals. In Christ we have everything. There is no lack in us as we look to Jesus our Lord.*

Gen 33:12 **2) The Brothers Reconcile** vs 12-19

Then Esau said, "Let us take our journey and go, and I will go before you."

Gen 33:13 But he said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds which are nursing are a care to me. And if they are driven hard one day, all the flocks will die.

Gen 33:14 "Please let my lord pass on before his servant, and I will proceed at my leisure, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir."

- *Jacob decides to journey separate from Esau. Possibly with the understanding that we are not to be joined with unbelievers. We are to be kind, and associate with them, but not to be joined with them.*
- *2 Corinthians 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"*
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Gen 33:15 Esau said, "Please let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord."

Gen 33:16 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

- *100 miles south east of the Jordan past the southern end of the Dead Sea.*

Gen 33:17 Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built for himself a house and made booths for his livestock; therefore the place is named Succoth.

- *Disobeys God (see chapter 31) He heads for the other side of Jordan 2 miles north of Jabbok*
- *Built a house not a tent. Succoth = Booths 8-10 years (Diana is a child Next chapter a young woman)*

Gen 33:18 Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and camped before the city.

- *He heads to Shechem, not place of birth but at least in Canaan, finally and in a tent. After the detour at Succoth.*
- *This is still partial obedience. .*

Gen 33:19 He bought the piece of land where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

Gen 33:20 Then he erected there an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

- *Jacob build an alter and uses his God given name "God the God of Israel"*

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