



## Jacob Wrestles with God

July 24

**INTRODUCTION:** Jacob, the deceiver, has come a long way, travelling from home and back again. In today's passage he arrives at a transformative moment, wrestling with God.

**REVIEW:** The Bible Project, [Genesis](#) (be cautious with other videos)

**KEY POINT:** wrestle, pride, humility, promise, transformation

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Gen 31, Jacob Flees Laban)

- What parallels are there with the Exodus/Christ?
- How did Jacob honour Laban (Col 3:23)?
- What is the contrast between looking to the Lord (Jacob) & clinging to idols (Laban and Rachel)? Which can help & bless us?

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (Gen 32a, Jacob Fears Esau)

- Why is it important to right wrongs to be at peace?
- How do verses like Ps 34:7 encourage the believer?
- How do we plan and pray?
- How is his prayer a model prayer?

**READ:** Genesis 32:22–32

### QUESTIONS:

1. *As physical struggles often have spiritual lessons, look out for these insights in this story.*
2. *FYI- Wrestle, Jacob and Jabbok all sound similar in Hebrew.*
3. Known as a theophany (a manifestation of God to man), what word(s) would you use to describe this story?
4. What clues in this story tell us this figure was God?
5. **Why do we wrestle with others and/or with God?**
6. **Is it ever possible to have peace when you are striving?**

The Sleepless Night (vv. 22–24a)

7. *Safe on the other side of the river, Jacob sent his family on, in the dark, across a dangerous ford. Why?*

The Fight (vv. 24b–25)

8. *All alone, he is attacked by a mysterious, superstrong man. How long did they fight? Is that easy?*
9. While it appears Jacob is in control, if you can put someone's hip out of joint with a touch, who really is in control and allowing him to prevail by grace?
10. **How does God permit us to struggle to humble and teach us?**
11. *Unbelievers struggle against God. In regeneration, which like the attacker God initiates, how does God end this in a moment?*

The Conversation (vv. 26–29)

12. If the man was God, why did he need to depart before day?
13. **What does Jacob mean? How had he sought the promise in ch. 25 & 27?**
14. **Realizing the super-human man must be God what did Jacob seek?**
15. *The figure changed Jacob's name to Israel, which means 'He strives with God.' However, this isn't negative. Injured, how did Jacob, in tenacious faith, legitimately seek God's blessing this time? (Hos 12:4a)*
16. **How do we wrestle through the Gospel to find God's blessing?**
17. The Lord later revealed His name to Moses, why not to Jacob? (Judg 13:18)
18. *In pre-Christian societies, where names often related to false gods, Christians took a Christian name. Might this ever return?*

The Outcome

19. *Peniel/Penuel means 'Face of God.' Can an unbeliever see God? How then is this a new day for Jacob (his conversion, c.f. 28:20 and then 'altar' in 33:20).*
20. *Jacob could not enter the Promised Land as a deceiver.*
21. **Yet he had a limp; he wasn't self-sufficient. How does the Lord give believers a thorn to keep us humble? (2 Cor 12:7, 9).**

V. 32- A Tradition

22. *Jacob now had humble confidence to meet Esau.*

**NEXT WEEK:** July 31- Jacob Meets Esau, Gen 33