

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF JACOB (PART TWO)

“And Jacob was left alone” – Genesis 32:24

THEIR LAST TIME TOGETHER

No wonder Jacob was afraid. The last time he had been near his brother Esau, he no doubt saw the hate in his eyes for him. It's hard to say he hadn't earned it. And Jacob knew he rightfully had his brother's ire. And now they were headed back together like approaching armies.

TWENTY EVENTFUL YEARS

Their parting had occurred twenty years earlier (Genesis 31:41). During that time, Jacob had acquired wives and children all while dealing with his treacherous father-in-law Laban. The source of Laban's anger was how God had blessed Jacob and made him a wealthy man while Laban had seen the reverse (Genesis 31:9). To escape Laban's control, Jacob had to flee by stealth and it was only direct divine intervention that saved him from Laban's vengeance and wrath (Genesis 31:20, 24). Their peaceful parting was a miracle (Genesis 31:55).

THE RECKONING APPROACHES

But now it was time to face the music from his past. His past before he encountered God and the ladder (Genesis 28:12-15). He left Laban because God instructed Jacob to return and promised to be with him (Genesis 31:3). But he was understandably wary. No doubt this was a moment Jacob has tried to push out of his mind when he had contemplated it over the years. But now the moment was upon him. He sent messengers declaring his peaceful intentions as well as gifts for his brother hoping to diminish his anger (Genesis 32:3-5). When they returned with reports of Esau's hundreds strong army, Jacob trembled (Genesis 32:6-7). He divided his family up into different bands hoping some might survive if Esau attacked (Genesis 32:7-8). What else could he do?

A PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE

He prayed. He prayed to the God who met him on the ladder. He prayed to the God who delivered him from Laban's treachery. He prayed to the God that sent him home, promising to be with him and revealed accompanying angels to him on his way home (Genesis 32:9-12).

ANOTHER SPECIAL DAY

God responded with another encounter for the ages. A heavenly messenger came to Jacob and they wrestled to no avail to the breaking of day (Genesis 32:24). Jacob's refusal to quit until he received a blessed resulting in his name being changed from deceiver to Israel: prince that has power with God and man (Genesis 32:26-28). What a day that was. When he met Esau, it was not to blows but to embraces. God had given him peace. He can do that for you today. No matter the circumstance, this could be a day of peace for you. Trust him Child of God.