

## GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

### A Reunion with Fate – Genesis 33

**33** And Jacob lifted up 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 female servants. <sup>2</sup> And he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. <sup>3</sup> He himself went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

<sup>4</sup> But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. <sup>5</sup> And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." <sup>6</sup> Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. <sup>7</sup> Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. <sup>8</sup> Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor in the sight of my lord." <sup>9</sup> But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." <sup>10</sup> Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found favor in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. <sup>11</sup> Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Thus he urged him, and he took it.

<sup>12</sup> Then Esau said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you." <sup>13</sup> But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail, and that the nursing flocks and herds are a care to me. If they are driven hard for one day, all the flocks will die. <sup>14</sup> Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, at the pace of the livestock that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir."

<sup>15</sup> So Esau said, "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." <sup>16</sup> So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. <sup>17</sup> But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

<sup>18</sup> And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. <sup>19</sup> And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. <sup>20</sup> There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

#### Genesis 32:22-32

#### Context:

<sup>36</sup> Esau said, "Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times. He took away my birthright, and behold, now he has taken away my blessing."

<sup>41</sup> Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, "The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

Genesis 27:36a, 41

## Big Picture:

A fitting conclusion to the Jacob/Esau saga ...

An end to Jacob's wanderings ...

## Two Changed Men:

*Esau greets Jacob as one brother greets the other after a long separation (v. 4); Jacob greets Esau as a vassal greets his patron with a ceremonial which has its origin in the royal court; there is a display of solemnity as becomes rank, the seven-fold obeisance, the submissive address, the presentation of gifts of homage. These two types of greeting are so skillfully worked together that the contrast speaks for itself. [Westermann, **Genesis**, vol. 2, p. 524]*

Jacob is ...

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

But, he's also ...

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

... changed, but \_\_\_\_\_ as you'd hope!

Esau is ...

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

... changed before Jacob does a single thing or says a single word! *Why?*

<sup>11</sup> *"Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children."*

### **Genesis 32:11**

God delivered Jacob from Esau – answering Jacob's prayer and keeping His covenant promise to him – through \_\_\_\_\_. And reconciliation was possible because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. Once again, the hero of the story is \_\_\_\_\_!

## A picture of grace:

For Esau:

*Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. (v. 4)*

*"I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." (vs. 9)*

For Jacob:

*"I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me."*

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## A sad epilogue:

God had directed Jacob to go to \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.

Partial obedience is self-satisfying, self-deceiving \_\_\_\_\_.

Decisions have \_\_\_\_\_.

Jacob erected an altar, calling it "*El-Elhohe-Israel*" ("the mighty God is the God of Israel"), but he had not yet fully surrendered to Elohim.

He will eventually get to Bethel (where God intended him to be all along), but he will arrive there \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Remember: God is \_\_\_\_\_ to our sanctification! He will do whatever it takes to transform us. And His purposes will not be thwarted.

<sup>8</sup> "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, <sup>9</sup> remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' <sup>11</sup> calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. <sup>12</sup> "Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness: <sup>13</sup> I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory."

**Isaiah 46:8-13**

Next week: Genesis 34 – Dinah and the Depravity of Man