



Part 6 - November 12, 2017

Wells

- Significant characters meet at wells in the OT narrative. Then, when Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, John uses the story of Jacob to convey that Jesus is *everything* his readers expect him to be - both for his readers specifically but also for everyone.

Jacob sets out

- Frustrated with feeling taken advantage of, Jacob gathers up his stuff and his family and leaves in the middle of the night.

Laban pursues

- Laban wakes up the next day finds everyone missing. Perhaps neither Laban nor Jacob are the bad guys - they each have their perspective on being hurt or taken advantage of by the other in the story.

Difficult conversations vs. running away

- It's too easy to run away.

Jacob sends gifts ahead of him to Esau's

- Jacob's gifts are attempting to hide his face from Esau's face. Perhaps Jacob's real fear is not that Esau will kill him - his real fear may be seeing Esau's face after all he's done to him. His gifts are intended to protect himself from the weight of his actions.

Read: Genesis 31:1-7, 31:26-28, 32:3-21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever picked anyone up at a well?

Just kidding, but what do you think of the significance of wells and how John ties those in to his story of Jesus in John chapter 4?

2. Can you think of any situations in your life where you find it hard to assume the best of others?

3. Are you aware of any patterns and habits and idols that come from your family of origin where you need to be reminded that where you came from does not define you?

4. Are there any uncomfortable conversations you may need to have before you find yourself ready to sneak away in the middle of the night?

5. Do you sense any invitation from God about anyone in your life who's face you're fearing to face?

BENEDICTION/PRAYER:

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob -

Today we bring whatever baggage and weight we have carried with us:

Our hurts and our failings and the spaces where we have gotten away with something we shouldn't have.

We carry all of that in to this room with us today...

perhaps because we don't know what else to do with it or where we can put it down, or if we can put it down.

And we ask that you would meet us here, face to face, and grace to mistake,

all so that we might experience the weightlessness of reconciliation.

Grant us peace in your presence today and courage to pursue forgiveness as we go.

Lord give us the strength to seek out those we have hurt in order to bring healing and hope back into broken moments.

And as we do, Lord help us to know that the hurt of the past; both hurts we have caused and hurts we have suffered do not have to define our experience of peace today.

Instead - we ask that your grace and your wisdom and your love would shape our tomorrows.

Amen