



Part 8 - November 26, 2017

Jacob

End of the Story

- Jacob finally goes to meet Esau.

Face Your Fear

- often when we face our fear that fear is replaced by something different.
- once you have met God in your fear you realize that fear won't end you.

You are Not Your Pain

- in the same way that Jacob is more than his mistakes, Esau is more than the way he was hurt.
- if you don't let go, if you don't choose to send that hurt away, it will start to feel like all that hurt defines you... and it was never meant to.

Self Forgetfulness

- reconciliation rests on a kind of self forgetfulness - the willingness to be different than we were but also the willingness to let go of where we were hurt.
- self forgetfulness - from both of us, bought together - this is what saves us from the death spiral of remaining perpetually wounded

The Face of God

- Esau looks like the face of God here because the face God is everything that soaks up our hurt and embraces us anyway.

Read: Genesis 33:1-12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Did you have a favourite part of this Jacob series? Is there a character that you identified with more?
2. How do you feel about Jacob's story arc in this series? How do you feel about him in the end?
3. Do you have an experience of facing a fear and overcoming it? What was it like?
4. Can you think of any times when you've offered or received a shallow forgiveness that doesn't include the mutual forgetfulness that Jeremy spoke about? What about an experience where you have given or received a healthier forgetful forgiveness?
5. Is there anyone that you are holding back forgiveness from because of the story you have told yourself about how they will respond?

BENEDICTION/PRAYER:

God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob -

We come one more time to the tale of your son Israel; to sit at the feet of your word and hear you unfold this story in front of us.

Lord may we listen well as you tell it, and wonder as you unwind it...

and might we find something of ourself in this man so that we could come to know you more clearly in this moment.

Where we are lost like Jacob - bring us home.

Where we are running like Jacob - slow us down.

Where we need to ask for reconciliation - Lord would you give us courage like Jacob.

Where we are hurting like Esau - would you heal us.

Where we need to mature like Esau - would you teach us.

Where we need to extend forgiveness for yesterday - just like Esau did - would you grant us your mercy and generosity and your grace

Since we are broken and hurt and flawed and beautiful in your eyes

So may we see ourselves - they way you see us.

Amen.