

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MAY 2, 2023

GENESIS 33:12FF

INTRODUCTION:

1. After twenty years, Jacob and Esau are reunited.
 - a) What happened to Jacob over the last twenty years? (Gen. 31.41,42)
 - b) What happened to Esau over the last twenty years?
2. Whatever life Esau lived during these last twenty years, his feelings for Jacob had changed.

I. THE CHANGE OF ESAU

- A. There was a change in location.
 1. Where did Esau go when he left home? (Gen. 28.6-9)
 2. Ishmael dwelt in the land of Havilah. (Gen. 25.17,18)
 3. Where was Esau when Jacob sent messengers to greet him? (Gen. 32.3; 33.14,15)
- B. There was a change in disposition.
 1. Last time they were together, Esau wanted to kill his brother.
 - a) Everyone knew that Esau had murderous intent. (Gen. 27.42-45)
 - b) Jacob was “*greatly afraid and distressed*” (Gen. 32.7,8,11)
 2. How did Esau feel about his brother now?
 - a) He had affection for him. (Gen. 33.4)
 - b) He had interest in him. (Gen. 33.5,6)
 - c) He had fellowship with him. (Gen. 33.8,9)
- C. There was a change in prosperity.
 1. **GENESIS 33.9:** “*I have enough my brother*”
 2. How much did Esau have? (Gen. 36.6-8; cf. 13.5,6)

II. HOW TO RECONCILE WITH YOUR BROTHER

- A. SYMPATHY
 1. Definition: To have sympathy is to feel and understand what someone is going through. Sympathy: Sum – “together”; Pathos – “suffer”; Literally, to suffer together.
 2. Example: Jesus was sympathetic toward us. (Heb. 4.15; 1 Pet 2.21)
 3. Context: Jacob came to understand what he did to Esau. (Gen. 27.36-38; 31.6,7)
 4. Application: Do you know how you made him feel? (1 Cor. 12.26; 1 John 3.17)
- B. HUMILITY
 1. Definition: To be humble is to see others as better than yourself. From the Greek word “*tapeinos*” meaning “to make low, depress.”
 2. Example: Though He was deity, Jesus humbled Himself. (Phil. 2.5-8; Matt. 11.28-30)
 3. Context: Jacob humbled himself to reconcile with Esau. (Gen. 32.4,17-19; 33.3)
 3. Application: Pride hinders reconciliation, but humility encourages it. (Phil. 2.1-4)
- C. FAMILY
 1. Definition: A family is defined as coming from a common origin. From the Greek word “*pater*” meaning “father, lineage” Akin to the word, “brethren.”
 2. Example: Jesus saw His disciples as family. (Matt. 12.48-50)
 3. Context: Jacob made the effort because Esau was his brother. (Gen. 32.3,11,13,17)
 4. Application: We are to love each other as brethren. (Rom. 12.10; Matt. 23.8)