



Past refection's

It's the month of August and we are gearing up to enter the fall season soon. So, since we're in the preparation phase a story came to mind and heart. I seem to recall and have mentioned throughout life there have been times of moving on, transformation, change, and times of being torn from place to place in order to continue on in this journey of faith and following our Lord and master Yeshua. As with many of you out there you can certainly relate to the challenges of life, but life in our Messiah goes from faith to faith and from victory to victory. As for facing times of disappointment, and times of discouragement, a really helpful and encouraging story always made me feel like I was not alone.

The Story

When we go to the pages of the Torah in **[B'reysheet. Genesis 32:22-31]**. It's a story that most have heard of... but how many people understood the real drama and conflict of the story? Or why was it an important issue in the bible? During this time in the life of Jacob, he was a man who struggled to be the leader of his people as well as discovering who he really was or who he was in Gods eyes.

Living with labels

As the story goes a better part of Jacobs life was spent on making shady deals with people such as his brother Esau who he tricked out of his birth rite **[Gen.25:29-34]**, and then he lied to his father to get the first born blessing **[Gen. 27:18-29]** only later to do business with Laban who tricked him into marrying Leah the wrong woman **[Gen.29:21-25]**. As well as showing favoritism to his son Joseph later in life who ended up in a pit because of Jacob's favoritism **[Gen.37:3-4]** and from all of this He really seemed to earn a reputation and label that he wasn't a person who was honest or could he be trusted as his focus many times was on himself and no one else. Sometimes labels can follow us until we learn to remove them.

The wrong Character

In Jacobs life he had really reaped what he had sown and really had no peace in his life but through it all he still remained in the character of that guy who was shady and could not be

trusted until a few life changing events happened. Jacob needed to be changed and become someone else in order to go on in life in the right way which he failed to see and failed to do until he had a one-on-one encounter with an angel. At this time the story tells us that he had wrestled with this unknown angel all night [**Gen.32:24-25**] But since Jacob knew this angel was special were told he would not let him go until he blessed him. Jacob also was prosperous in his life at this point but only by his own misguided shady ways. He was not truly blessed with Gods covenant blessings yet until the angel did something profound in his life. We may need the same intervention to bring better into our lives.

The change

Jacob's life never changed until the night he wrestled with the angel. Some believe the angel was the Messiah, and some say he was just a Messenger. But the point is that the only one who can truly bless and change a man's heart and his character is God. And we find out that's exactly what happened. Jacob fought with man and God to receive that covenant blessing. He started out in the wrong way to get it, but when God broke his hip meaning when we was broken of his pride and selfishness, he was finally humbled and was given the right blessing once and for all. Humbleness is the right path to living in Gods blessings.

Our encouragement

I think for most of us we may struggle for many reasons but? are we struggling because we fail to see or acknowledge what's wrong in our own lives? Or is God changing something within our hearts that were fighting? Or are we fighting to get the blessing in the wrong way in life? Wherever you maybe it's encouraging to know that we should not let go of our faith in God. Know that whatever God has started in your life he will finish it his way and he will bless it his way. Through this process it's comforting to know that Gods spirit is working for what he wants to be right in our hearts and character which reflects a genuine example of who he is. God knows where we all need to change to grow and to mature into the perfect example of our Messiah. In the end we are changed with a new name and new character to go on in life the right way. [**Phil.1:6**]

SUMMARY

This reflection explores Jacob's spiritual transformation through his encounter with an angel, emphasizing humility's role in receiving God's blessings and encouraging faith amid life's challenges.

Jacob's Past and Labels

- Jacob's life was marked by deception, favoritism, and mistrust, earning negative labels.
- These labels followed him until a life-changing encounter.

The Wrestle with the Angel

- Jacob wrestled with an angel, possibly the Messiah, seeking blessing.

- God's intervention broke his pride, humbling him and granting true blessing.

Spiritual Lessons and Encouragement

- True change comes from God, not human effort.
- Humility opens the way for God's blessings.
- Faith persists through disappointment, trusting God's process of transformation.