

Genesis: God and Man

Esau Was Coming

Genesis 33

God & Man...

- Adam and Even
- Cain and Abel
- Noah
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Esau

Previously

- Esau and Jacob born
- Esau outdoorsman, Jacob more of a chef
- Rivalry as kids
- Stew for a birthright
- Lies for a blessing...Rebekah's idea
- Esau wants to kill Jacob
- Jacob runs away...for a long time
- Jacob headed back home

Trust

firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.

(archaic) a hope or expectation.

have faith or confidence.

It's hard to know who to trust

It's hard to regain someone's trust

The world tends to work on a system of earning trust

A way of works to erase a sin. Build trust back. It's true you don't want to lay hands quickly

The world also tends to believe certain people over others

"Fake news" social media cutting people off, verifying others

Online trust...cybersecurity, hacking, cryptocurrency

It's easy to see how this is all headed to the mark...ultimate trust in a man and a system

Sometimes we trust just because we want to, even though we know we shouldn't

That relationship blinds us

[Mic 7:2-7 NKJV] 2 The faithful [man] has perished from the earth, And [there is] no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net. 3 That they may successfully do evil with both hands--The prince asks [for gifts], The judge [seeks] a bribe, And the great [man] utters his evil desire; So they scheme together. 4 The best of them [is] like a brier; The most upright [is sharper] than a thorn hedge; The day of your watchman and your punishment comes; Now shall be their perplexity. **5 Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion; Guard the doors of your mouth From her who lies in your bosom.** 6 For son dishonors father, Daughter rises against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies [are] the men of his own household. **7 Therefore I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; My God will hear me.**

Sounds a lot like today

Who do you trust?

[2Sa 22:31 NKJV] 31 [As for] God, His way [is] perfect; The word of the LORD [is] proven; He [is] a shield to all who trust in Him.

[Psa 9:10 NKJV] 10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

Other times we don't trust when we really should.

[Pro 18:19 NKJV] 19 A brother offended [is harder to win] than a strong city, And contentions [are] like the bars of a castle.

Trust is a hard thing

[pray]

1-3

Jacob lifted his eyes and looked...it was not hard to see this band of 400 coming in the distance Imagine the dust cloud

All these years. All those buried feelings, suppressed memories, worries, now come rushing back to the surface. This is it. Can you imagine the feeling, the adrenaline, the panic?

But God had told him to come back. Again, practical preparation is important, but I'm not sure Jacob trusts God's plan here...

Jacob splits everyone up, his plan
It's clear who he values least to most

- 1 - maidservants and their children**
- 2 - Leah and her children and Rachel's other children**
- 3 - Rachel and the youngest, Joseph**

Having a newborn

The trials of Joseph and the family dynamic with the brothers there make a little more sense in light of this, don't they

He did go before them though

Instead of being the cowering and self-preserving Jacob, he was now governed by God and leading as Israel...but only to an extent

Bands of Gifts, Jacob, his family split up behind him

Bows himself 7 times. Trying to show perfect submission to his brother
 A bit of flattery, a bit of self-preservation, and a bit of denying the blessing on himself

Guzik - it's still common to suffer some problem because we try to accomplish what we think to be God's will or to protect our interest in merely human energy and wisdom. God never needs us to sin to help Him fulfill His plan in our life.

4

But Esau ran

Historically running was undignified

Running saved for battle (imagine two groups of ancient soldiers running into battle)

But Esau was running here because he loved his brother. He missed him.

He wanted reconciliation.

It still doesn't quite explain the 400 men...Esau was probably afraid of Jacob as well now
 Finding his strength in numbers it seems. He sees all that Jacob has and he still has all those men with him. Was it a rough neighborhood? He was an outdoorsman, so maybe like David's band of men, this is his crew and he doesn't think much of it...but 400 is a small army.

Peace delegations still bring armies of secret service, protection, and otherwise.

All this time we've seen what God was doing in Jacob's life...but it's evident God was also at work in Esau's life...in at the very least he forgives his twin brother completely

He embraced him, they fell down and wept together

This is beautiful. This is powerful. This is the work of God.

Can you imagine? The heartbreak, the relief, the healing.

5-11

Esau is excited to see how God has blessed his brother

He wants to meet his family

Jacob talks and behaves quite distantly...not like to a reconciled brother, but like meeting a king...someone he is still afraid of

Eventually everyone draws near to meet Esau

Esau asks, "why did you send all these gifts and people?"

Like why are you trying to find favor with me?

Esau forgives his brother very much but he also doesn't address that he at one time was going to murder his brother.

True reconciliation and trust requires both parties not only to make amends but to but also ask forgiveness of, otherwise there is potentially a hidden division under the surface

Jacob calls Esau lord

But Esau calls Jacob brother

A clear difference in the way they are approaching this meeting

I have enough brother.

I don't need your gifts, God has blessed me...I just want my brother back

This awkward exchange of trying to bless

Jacob perhaps feels a bit guilty of his blessing and is trying to appease his brother with it And it's blinded him to the fact that his brother doesn't want it

Fleshly plans are of no avail in spiritual circumstances

But Esau takes it, he was urged to. He's not looking for a fight.

[Pro 11:25 NKJV] 25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

There is a good to be found in blessing others. It is better to give than to receive.

But I still think Jacob is trying to buy peace with his brother in some sense and Esau already has already found it

12-17

Esau, let us take our journey and I will go before you

Esau doesn't know God's plan, Jacob hasn't shared it with him

Esau wants to bring Jacob back home with him...perhaps hoping they can live like brothers again in unity

[Psa 133:1-3 NKJV] 1 A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant [it is] For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 [It is] like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. 3 [It is] like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing--Life forevermore.

But Jacob seems afraid that Esau is leading him back to be his servant, his captive

But also Jacob knows that's not where he's supposed to go

But he doesn't tell the truth. He doesn't straight up lie, but he's not honest with his brother about the call of God to Bethel

Jacob has this long excuse, long answer...oh the herds won't make it, oh the family has to do this and that...

[Pro 10:19 NKJV] 19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips [is] wise.

He's got a long answer, he obviously doesn't want to go with him

When we want to do something it's usually a quick yes

[Mat 5:37 NKJV] 37 "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.

Esau tries to leave some men behind, probably a gesture of brotherhood and protection
But also, given, the new nature of their reconciliation and long past...at least a little threatening.

Where do they go?

Esau goes back to Seir, south and east of the dead sea.

Jacob goes west, towards the Jordan, but not too far.

Succoth - booths

“the first stopping place of the Israelites when they left Egypt”



18-20

“Jacob came safely to Shechem”

Crosses the Jordan, goes to Shechem

As if he was worried about more danger

But also underlining the fact that despite being pursued by Laban and approached by Esau, God had brought him safely back

Bought some land from the locals

Reminds me of Abraham buying the burial plot

But again, getting a piece of the promised land, buying it one parcel at a time

Seems he has made some friends in the area

EI-elohe-Israel = "the mighty God of Israel

Jacob now knew for sure God was there not only to bless him, but to protect him

He had been brought through a lot to get back to this point.

David Guzik:

a. And he pitched his tent before the city: It is good Jacob came to the Promised Land, and he settled there. But he came short of full obedience, because it seems God directed him to return to Bethel (Genesis 31:13).

b. Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel: The altar was good, but complete obedience was better. God wants obedience first, then sacrifice. Jacob and his family will suffer in this wasted, disobedience period of time.

For Jacob and Esau, this was the beginning and sadly apparently also the end of their reconciliation. We don't hear anything else about Esau except for his genealogy in ch. 36

I still find it so tragic that these TWIN brothers ended up separated in life...through strife and eventually emotional and physical separation, and even after reconciliation they go their separate ways.

- **Who have you been separated from?**
- **Have you been brought far away from some place?**
- **Is God calling you to go back or remain?**
- **Is he calling you to go somewhere new?**
- **Is he calling you to be reconciled with someone?**

[Mat 5:23-24 NKJV] 23 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

(it may be right where you are, it may not be, but the promises of God can only be fulfilled if you're in the right place with Him)

Go, be reconciled and return to the promised land God has for you.