

The Hard Parts of Advancing – Genesis 33

Follow-Up Questions – August 8

Have you ever watched Dirty Jobs? What do you think of the show? What is the dirtiest job or task that you have had to do?

Thinking back to Genesis 27 and the beginning of Genesis 32, what do you think Jacob was feeling as he awaited Esau's arrival? Would Jacob's prayer in Genesis 32 and his wrestling match have changed that in any way? Please read Genesis 33:1-3. Does anything surprise you in those verses?

Do you think it was easy or hard for Jacob to bow to Esau in Genesis 33:3? Why? What do you think prompted Jacob to do that? How might Philippians 2:3-4 help us act in similar ways? Do Philippians 2:1-2 or 2:5 add any kind of motivation to move toward humility? Do you see humility as essential to reconciliation? What does Philippians 2:8 suggest?

What would it have been like for Jacob to experience Genesis 33:4? How similar is that scene to Luke 15:20? What might those verses tell us about God and His desire to see reconciliation happen? What does Genesis 33:10 add to that discussion? Have you ever struggled with forgiveness? Why or why not? What does Ephesians 4:32 tell us about forgiveness?

Please read Genesis 33:5-11. What is your reaction to what is happening in those verses? Why was Jacob so insistent? If you were in Jacob's shoes, would you have been equally insistent? Are tangible expressions of forgiveness and reconciliation important? Why or why not? What do you think restitution should look like today?

Please read Genesis 33:12-16. What questions or observations do those verses pop up for you? Why do you think Jacob was not direct with Esau? Why did Jacob go from a high level of honesty in Genesis 33:8 to being loose with the truth in these verses? How might that challenge us in our lives?

How does Jacob look in Genesis 33:17-20? Is that picture tempered by God pointing Jacob to Bethel in Genesis 31:13 and by God's direct command in Genesis 35:1 to get to Bethel? How can we help each other get beyond partial obedience?