

# **We May Know What We Want, But Do We Know What We Need**

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**Gen. 32:24** - Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

**Gen. 32:25** - Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

**Gen. 32:26** - And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

**Sermon Title:** "We May Know What We Want; But Do We Know What We Need?"

**Introduction:** Story of Jacob going to meet Esau. Jacob thought he needed a blessing but God knew he needed a changing.

## **A. God's people need more than just another "good meeting" that sends goose bumps up and down their spines.**

1. We need a God-meeting that leaves us with a limp!
2. We need Jacobs who will lay hold on the theophany of God and wrestle with their destiny until it is changed! Who will take hold of God and say, "I am not going to let go until You bless me"?

## **B. Jacob knew what a blessing was. (He remembered what happened when his father laid his hands on his head)**

**Note:** Many people wonder how Jacob could use such improper, impertinent language with God Almighty. I believe that Jacob, "the heel-grabber," used the only terminology he understood. He may have become a patriarch, but he wasn't a theologian. "I've got to have it. I've already had a blessing from the earthly perspective. Now I need it from a heavenly perspective. I am not going to let You go until You bless me."

## **C. This isn't some celestial blue light special**

**Note:** All too often we approach God with a discount store mentality. Whether we come for revival, physical healing, or a financial blessing, we hope to get what we want at the cheapest price in the shortest time possible. I don't know about you, but I have never seen God do things that way. We like to line up like we've found some celestial "blue-light special" with our lists of prayers and petitions. Then we say, "Bless me." I have begun to pray that God would not answer our exact requests, but answer according to our need instead. We know what we want-but do we know what we need?

**Gen. 32:27** So He said to him, "What *is* your name?" He said, "Jacob."

**Gen. 32:28** And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

**Gen. 32:29** Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell *me* Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why *is* it *that* you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

**Gen. 32:30** So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel. "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved

**Gen. 32:31** Just as he crossed over Peniel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

**Gen. 32: 32** Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which *is* on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.

#### **D. Jacob expected God to lay His hand on his head and pronounce a blessing on him**

1. Instead of giving Jacob what he wanted, he gave him what he needed.
2. He blessed him with a change. A touch that changed everything about him.

**Note:** The Lord didn't stretch out His arm with an open hand of blessing because Jacob didn't need another blessing on his messed-up life." He needed a new life. Instead, the Lord doubled up His fist and struck Jacob in the thigh with such power that it knocked Jacob's thigh out of joint and permanently injured the connective ligament there. As a result, Jacob limped the rest of his life.

3. We don't need God to bless our messed up life, we need Him to make a change in us.

## **E. Jacob went to meet Esau a changed man.**

Note: When Jacob's older brother, Esau, finally saw Jacob limp into view, he probably thought, That's not the same Jacob who stole my birthright. He doesn't even walk the same. There is humility in his walk; there is a new tenderness in him. He is different. I can't kill him; that's my brother." He wanted to kill the old brother, but he embraced the new Jacob.

## **F. I'm Tired of Getting Touched But Not Changed**

**Note:** We need to have encounters with God that leave us changed forever. I am tired of coming to church and getting touched but not changed. We must lock onto the presence of God and say, "I'm not letting You go until something happens inside me and I am never the same again."

This is the God-kind-of-change that permanently wounds the old man and the old ways of doing things. It causes the death of something within us, which marks a change for the better. People should see us coming with a new limp, a new tenderness borne of the day we lost our wrestling contest with God.

It should make people say, "I like that person. He isn't speaking from a place of arrogance; he speaks like he knows what it's like to come from the bottom." That is why my motto is, "Never trust anybody who doesn't walk with a limp."