

Stop Chasing & Start Clinging

Genesis 32:1-32

[Jacob Appeasing Esau; Jacob Transformed]

SERMON OUTLINE

I. JACOB, THE SELF-MADE MAN

- A. RECAP: Jacob's life thus far: chasing and crashing (his deception/discipline)
- B. Jacob's attempts to **appease** Esau—his deceptive tendencies return in crisis (32:1-8, 13-21)
- C. Jacob's prayer to God—his **manipulative** tendencies rise to the forefront. (32:9-12)

II. ISRAEL, THE RE-MADE MAN

- A. Jacob's recognition that he was **grappling** with God and **clinging** to God for blessing. (32:24-26)
- B. God's renaming of Jacob: "Israel" means "God fights [for you]". (32:27-29)
- C. Jacob will never **have** to fight again; he will never be able to fight again. (32:30-32)

III. CLING TO GOD ALONE!

- A. How we can live in confidence, seeking only God for our blessing, remembering He fights for us.

Introduction (32:22-24)

A Jacob injured on the thigh (32:25)

B Request for release because dawn was breaking (32:26a)

C Blessing demanded; clinging to God (32:26b)

D Request for name; request answered (32:27)

E Renaming and explanation (32:28)

D' Request for name; request denied (32:29a)

C' Blessing given; God seen face-to-face (32:29b-30)

B' Jacob crosses as the sun rises (32:31a)

A' Jacob limps on his thigh (32:31b)

Conclusion (32:32)

SERMON NOTES

CHIASTIC STRUCTURE: 32:22-32