

These Kids Are Going to be the Death of Me: Jacob (From Deceiver to Disciple)

07/06/2025 - Andy Deane

Jacob's story is a slow, messy journey of transformation. He starts as a deceiver, grasping, scheming, and running, but God doesn't give up on him. Through grace, struggle, and surrender, Jacob becomes a disciple—someone who is led, changed, and finally governed by God. His story asks each of us: Are you still grasping for control or are you growing by surrendering all to God?

Deception might get you what you want, but it will cost you more than you can see.

Genesis 27, 35 *But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing" ..41 Esau held a grudge...said ...I will kill my brother..." 42 Rebekah...said...Flee at once...44 until your brother's fury subsides.*

Our sin creates separation, but God gives us a stairway.

Genesis 28, 12 *He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13...Lord...said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. 14 Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. 15 I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you. 16 When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, & I was not aware of it."*

John 1:51, ...you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on' the Son of Man.

What goes around comes around, but with God, it comes with a lesson, not just a consequence.

Genesis 29-30, 18 *Jacob said, I'll work for you 7 years...for Rachel...20 they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her...22 So Laban...gave a feast 23 ...& took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her...25 When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said..., "What is this you have done...? I served you for Rachel...? Why have you deceived me? 26 Laban replied, ... 27 "Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger...in return for another 7 years... 28 And Jacob did so...31 When the Lord saw Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive...Genesis 30:1, Rachel...became jealous...said..."Give me children, or I'll die!"*

Galatians 6:7-8, 7 *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

2 Corinthians 9:6, *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

Old patterns resurface to reveal where we still need to grow.

Genesis 31, 3, *Lord said..., "Go back to the land of your fathers ...& I will be with you...." 4 Jacob sent word to Rachel & Leah...6 You know...I've worked for your father with all my strength, 7 yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times...20 Jacob deceived Laban...by not telling him he was running away...*

God doesn't bless us because we're strong, but because we cling to Him when we're weak.

Genesis 32, 9 *Jacob prayed "...10 I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness...11 Save me...from...Esau...for I am afraid..."21 So Jacob [sent] gifts...ahead...24...& was left alone, & a man wrestled with him till daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was [dislocated]... 26 & said, "Let me go..." Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me...28 Then the man*

said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome... 29 Then he blessed him. 30 Jacob...[said], “..I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.” 31... and he was limping...

The mercy you fear you’ll never get may already be running toward you.

Genesis 33, 1 Jacob looked up and there was Esau...with his 400...3 He...bowed down to the ground seven times... 4 But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept.

Worship reaches its fullness when we finally let go of what doesn’t belong.

Genesis 35, 1 God said..., “Go up to Bethel & settle there, & build an altar there to God...” 2 So Jacob said... “Get rid of the foreign gods you have...& purify yourselves... 3 let us go up to Bethel, where I will build an altar to God, who answered me in the day of my distress & who has been with me wherever I have gone.” 4 So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had and the rings in their ears... 5 Then they set out...

PROGRESSION OF JACOB’S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

1. Transactional Faith (Genesis 28:20-22)
Attitude: “If You do this, then I’ll follow.”
2. Desperate Dependence (Genesis 32:22-30)
Attitude: “I won’t let go until You bless me!”
3. Grateful Surrender (Genesis 35:2-3)
Attitude: “You’ve been faithful. I will follow.”

PROGRESSION OF JACOB'S IDENTITY IN GOD

- Jacob: He Grasps the Heel // Supplanter
- Israel: He struggles with God // Governed by God

HOW ARE YOUR PROGRESSING IN YOUR FAITH?

- We believe when we connect with each part of Cornerstone’s Discipleship Pathway we are slowly transformed into the disciple God desires us to be: Know God, Grow with Others, Use Your Gifts, Help the Hurting.
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