

THE STRUGGLES OF JACOB

HOSEA:12:2-6

Hos. 12:2 The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.

Hos. 12:3 He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God:

Hos. 12:4 Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;

Hos. 12:5 Even the LORD God of hosts; the LORD is his memorial.

Hos. 12:6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

1. **DEF: Jacob:** supplanter ... to catch by the heel

A. Jacob lived up to his name ... his name actually described the lack of character in his life:

1. As a supplanter:

a. he would use manipulation & deceit to get his way

2. To catch by the heel:

a. Jacob would trip you up at any cost in order to get ahead ... or get what you have

B. **Jacob is a picture, a type and shadow of the carnal minded believer:**

1. In the life of Jacob we discover struggles in his walk with God

a. And we discover these same struggles in the life of Born Again believers who do not spiritually mature

b. and continue to walk in the flesh instead of walking in the Spirit as we are instructed in Gal 5:16

2. What the bible says about carnality:

a. Rom 8: **5** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

(1) Is our mind set on the things of the flesh or the things of the Holy Spirit

(a) that is revealed by what captures our attention, time & commitment

(1) if carnal minded we: "mind the things of the flesh"

(2) if we are Spirit minded we focus "after the things of the Holy Spirit"

(2) we are warned that to be carnal minded it always results in death manifesting

(a) But to be Holy Spirit minded results in life & peace manifesting in our behalf

(3) To be carnal minded is to become an enemy of God:

(a) But to be spiritually minded will enable you to walk in the reality of Jn 15:14 where Jesus promises that we would be friends of God

C. It is important that we develop & grow spiritually because we live by a spiritual law that is entitled: **THE LAW OF SOWING & REAPING**

1. Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

a. To sow is speaking of planting a seed

b. Do we understand that the:

life we are living

the decisions we make,

the things we say & do

(1) are seeds that we are planting that will result in a harvest coming back into our life

(2) and if we need to change our harvest .. we must change the seeds we are planting

(3) we cannot reap the harvest of life and peace if we continue to sow to the Flesh & be carnal minded

D. We see an example of this in the life a a person who started out his walk with God by walking in the flesh, being carnal in his decisions and actions:

1. Hosea 12: 2 “**will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.**”

a. according to who’s ways? Jacob

b. according to who’s doings? Jacob

(1) God said He would Recompense Jacob according to his ways & doings

(a) **Def Recompense:** to repay

(1) in other words; Jacob was going to reap the harvest of the seeds he had planted as he walked in carnality

E. Take a look at some of the life of Jacob, that resulted in the pay pack he received for walking in the flesh:

1. At birth: it tells us in vs 3 “**He took his brother by the heel in the womb**” so he could become the first born thus he robbed his brother of the Blessings of the First Born: Gen 25:26

2. To receive blessings he **manipulated his brother Esau**:

a. took advantage of his in a moment of weakness & got him to sell his birthright to him for a bowl of beans: Gen 25:29-34

3. He **deceived his father by disguising himself** to be his brother Esau, so that his father would lay hands upon him & speak the blessing of the First Born over his life: Gen 27

4. **How many believers still wrestle with their flesh today as Jacob did**:

a. mistakenly thinking they have to walk in the flesh to get blessed

b. mistakenly thinking they have to manipulate & take advantage of people to get ahead in life

c. Living by worldly principles instead of biblical principles

(1) and forgetting that they are living by the laws of Sowing & Reaping

II. God has away of intervening in the life of every Jacob, every believer trapped in walking in the flesh in order to break the carnality that dominates their life:

Hosea 12: 3 NKJV “**And in his strength he struggled with God**”

A. Like Jacob, God will bring us to this place in life & in our walk with God where we enter into this struggle as Jacob did. We find this struggle in Gen 32:

23 And he took **them**, and sent them **over** the **brook**, and sent **over** that he had.

24 And **Jacob** was **left** alone; and there **wrestled** a **man** with him until the **breaking** of the **day**.

25 And when he **saw** that he **prevailed** not against him, he **touched** the hollow of his **thigh**; and the **hollow** of **Jacob's thigh** was out of **joint**, as he **wrestled** with him.

26 And he **said**, Let me **go**, for the **day breaketh**. And he **said**, I will not let thee **go**, **except** thou **bless** me.

27 And he **said** unto him, What *is* thy **name**? And he **said**, **Jacob**.

28 And he **said**, Thy **name** shall be **called** no more **Jacob**, but **Israel**: for as a prince hast thou **power** with **God** and with **men**, and hast **prevailed**.

29 And **Jacob asked** *him*, and **said**, **Tell me**, I pray thee, thy **name**. And he **said**, Wherefore *is it that* thou dost **ask** after my **name**? And he **blessed** him there.

30 And **Jacob called** the **name** of the **place Peniel**: for I have **seen God face** to **face**, and my **life** is **preserved**.

1. Look at the keys in Jacob's struggle with God that ended up changing his life:

a. “**Jacob was left alone**”

(1) There comes a time in every person's life every believers life

where it has to come down to a personal encounter with God

(2) Just you and Jesus ... just you wrestling it out with:

the convicting power of The Holy Ghost ...

Wrestling it out with the Truth of The Word of God

Wrestling it out in prayer:

(a) determining if we will lay our life upon the altar as a living sacrifice as we are instructed to do in Rom 12: 1

(b) until we are brought to a place of surrender & yield's

(1) no longer dependent upon our own strength

(2) no longer walking in the flesh

(3) no longer manipulating & deceiving in order to get ahead in life & receive the blessings of the Lord

b. This encounter with God is not found in the midst of a crowd

(1) This encounter with God is not experienced by someone laying hands upon you and praying for you

(2) Hosea 12:3 says that: "Jacob struggled with God"

(1) Jacob ran from this struggle for years, then he finally came to a place where "**Jacob was left alone**"

(2) he wrestled with the Lord and determined that he would not let go until his breakthrough came forth

(a) Gen 32:26 " will not let thee **go**, **except** thou **bless** me."

(1) going from walking in the flesh to walking in the Spirit

(2) going from being carnal minded to becoming Spirit minded

(a) does not take place by attending a self help group or reading a self help book

(1) it only comes to pass when we determine to be a Christian more than just by name

(2) and determine to obey the words of Jesus that He spoke in Matthew 16:24 "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me".

2. Hosea 12:4 "**He wept and sought favor from Him**"

a. Jacob was no longer looking for the hand of man to help him

b. Jacob was no longer looking unto his own strengths

b. Jacob was no longer plotting what to do next in order to get to where he wanted to go & get out of the mess he had made of his life

c. "**He wept**"

(1) he was praying

(2) He was crying out to God

(a) to change his life

(b) to make a way for him in life

© 2 Cor 7:10 “2 Corinthians 7:[10] “ For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of:”

(1) Jacob was under deep conviction for where he was in his walk with God he was filled with sorrow for walking in the flesh

(2) and when he had reached that point it “Worketh repentance to salvation”

(3) and if you and I ever want to break carnality in our life so we can Walk in the Spirit ... we each must come to this same place as Jacob

d. **“made supplication unto him”**

The NKJV says: “He ... sought **favor** from Him”

(1) Ps 30:5 "in his **favour is life**: **weeping** may **endure** for a **night**, but **joy cometh** in the

(a) The life Jacob was looking for the favor you and I are looking for only comes from God

(b) When we get tired of walking in the flesh and come to the point of being willing to take the time to get alone with God and do as Jacob did:

(1) Sought favor from Him / The Lord

(a) Gen 32:26 Jacob would not stop wrestling with The Lord ... and he cried out to The Lord: “I will not let thee **go**, **except** thou **bless** me.

(2) when was the last time we got on our knees and began to pour out our heart in prayer in this magnitude & yes it might lead to weeping

(a) it will lead to becoming broken and surrendered

(b) it will lead to becoming honest with ourselves and acknowledging our true spiritual condition

(1) but look at the end results: **“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning”**

(a) The **“Mourning”** is not just speaking of the sun arising

(b) but it is also speaking of a breaking of a new day

(1) it is speaking of a spiritual break through

(2) where you go from being a Jacob that walked in the flesh ... to becoming a prince of God that walks in the Spirit

B. This personal encounter with God changed Jacob, from the inside out:

1. It changed his life

it changed his walk

it changed the way he thought

it changed the way he spoke

2. And to confirm this change, The Lord gave Jacob a new name:

a. Gen 32: **28** “And he **said**, Thy **name** shall be **called** no more **Jacob**, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou **power** with **God** and with **men**, and hast **prevailed**.

(1) **Def Israel: prince with God**

b. Jacob not only had a name change ... he had an identity changed ... he had a character change

(1) No longer would he introduce himself as Jacob ... which meant manipulator

(2) But he would introduce himself as Israel

(a) a prince of God

(b) A man who had power with God

© man who had prevailed over his old carnal nature

c. According to 1 Peter 2:9 when we have become Born Again

(1) “ ye are a chosen generation, a royal (kingly) priesthood, “

(a) but does our walk reflect that

(b) does our walk reflect that of Jacob: walking in the flesh

© or does our walk reflect that if a person like Israel who’s life has been so changed that we are walking in the Spirit

c. Listen to Jacob’s testimony after he wrestled with God:

(1) Gen 32:30 “for I have **seen God face to face**, and my **life is preserved**”.

(a) He did not say he met the preacher

(b) he did not say I met the president

© he did not say I met the rich man and now my troubles are over

(1) He said: “**I have seen God face to face**”

(a) Personal encounters with God is what changes our life

(b) Have you met the Lord ... if so, ... do you Know Him ... intimately?

d. The results of seeing God face to face is the same for us as it was for Jacob / now Israel:

(1) “**my life is preserved**”

(a) **Def Preserved:** to deliver, recover, rescue

(2) Just one glimpse of Jesus in the Word will deliver you

(a) Just one glimpse of Jesus while wrestling with Him in prayer and He will deliver you, rescue you, and enable you to recover your walk with God

III. I want to show you another key for overcoming carnality:

A. Hosea 12: 4 “**he found him in Bethel**”

1. **Def Bethel:** house of God

a. Your flesh may not want to hear this

Your carnal mind may not want to hear what I am about to say:

(1) But the House of God ... the local church is to play a vital role in the life of every believer:

2. Because: Hosea 12:4 “ **there Bethel (the House of God) he spake with us;**”

- a. I understand that God can speak to us anywhere
I understand that God can & does speak to us while we read the word & while in prayer
- b. But I also understand there are some things that God desires to speak to us that we would never be able to hear on our own ... out of fellowship .. & unfaithful to the House of God
- c. When we are walking in carnality when we forsake the house of God
 - (1) our priorities are out of order ... we are not seeking first the Kingdom of God & His righteousness
 - (2) When we are walking in Carnality you are not going to open your bible and do a study on:
 - (a) crucifying the flesh
 - (b) repenting of our sin
 - © living holy
 - (d) becoming a faithful tither
 - © submission ... to God ... & those who God sets in your life as a spiritual covering
- d. But when you come to Bethel A True House of God
 - (1) Where the Word is preached
 - (2) Where the Word is taught
 - (3) Where the Prophetic flows
 - (a) Just as it says of Jacob: “He (God) spake with us”
 - (b) God will speak to you
 - (1) and when God speaks to you it will bring faith & conviction into your heart
 - (2) The Holy Spirit will challenge us by showing each of us the true condition of our heart & walk with God
 - (1) you might not hear that type of preaching on Tv or on the radio
 - (2) but you will here it at Bethel The House of God that has not Compromised the Word of God
 - (a) nor compromised with the spirit of this world

B. Jacob ran from Church for years He ran from Bethel for years from the time he left His fathers house and until the time he came back to Bethel

1. When Jacob first left his father’s house he ended up in Bethel / The House of God, Where he had an encounter with God & dreamed a dream from The Lord in Gen Chapter 28

- a. He made vows unto The Lord as he had his first personal experience with God
- b. He then went on to Laban’s house ... and reaped what he had sown

- (1) for over twenty years he served a master manipulator by the name of Uncle Laban
2. Finally twenty years later when he left Laban's house he came back to Bethel ... came back to the House of God and had his second encounter with God that we have been reading about today, which resulted in a life changing experience that broke the carnality that ruled his life:
 - a. Maybe you have never met Jesus and are not Born Again, if so:
 - (1) you are in need of a life changing experience with called: You must be Born Again need to repent of your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior
 - b. maybe like Jacob you encountered The Lord .. saved ... maybe even baptized in the Holy Ghost but, still walking in carnality ... still walking in the flesh in areas of your life
 - (a) and maybe like Jacob you are struggling in your walk with God & have become unfaithful in coming to Bethel ... coming to the House of God
 - (1) I want to give you the same word, that God spoke to Jacob in Hosea 12:6 NKJV "So you, by the help of your God, **RETURN**"
 - (2) **Def Return:** recover, rescue, refresh
 - (a) do you need to recover your walk with God
 - (b) do you need rescued from walking in carnality
 - © do you need a refreshing of your hunger for the things of God
 - (3) Hosea 12:6 goes on to say:
 - (a) **"and wait upon thy God continually"**
 - (1) **Def Wait:** to bind together
 - (a) no longer an enemy of God due to being carnal minded
 - (b) becoming that friend of God Jesus died on Calvary's cross to make you and I
 - (b) **Def Continue:** consistency
 - (1) speaking of becoming consistent in your commitment & walk with God
 - (a) no longer up & down in your walk with God
 - (b) no longer in church one week then gone the next two or three weeks
 - (b) no longer rearing your bible & praying every now & then but daily continually being Spirit minded ...
- C. If you lost your first love for Jesus: by THE GRACE OF GOD RETURN
 1. if you lost you love for The Word of God: by THE GRACE OF GOD RETURN
 - a. If you lost the hunger to seek God in prayer: by THE GRACE OF GOD RETURN
 - b. If you lost your desire to come to Bethel / come to the House of God: by the GRACE OF GOD RETURN

