

**Face to Face**  
(Gen. 32:24-31, 33:8-11)  
Outline by Randy Wages  
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Note: The text below was prepared for oral delivery rather than for publication in print. As such, be aware that sentence fragments are intentionally used and that this document has not been edited to correct the errors in grammar, sentence structure, etc.

**A. Introduction:**

1. Title ó Face to Face is in reference to a personal confrontation with the God-man that all who shall enter heaven's glory must and will experience in this lifetime.
2. Introduce Text and comment how this might seem an odd text for an Easter message; however the gospel message itself is one that celebrates the finished work and subsequent resurrection of our Savior each and every time it is delivered.
3. Relate the story ó
  - a. Chap 32 ó Jacob was on a journey
  - b. Sending messengers to Esau ó desiring his good will; Report back of Esau and the 400 ó causing panic, vs. 7
  - c. Vss 9-12 :ó Jacob prayed for temporal deliverance from Esau, asking for God's mercy, noting his own unworthiness; appealing to God based on His promises
  - d. Vss. 13-ff: Devised ways and means to secure himself ó divided them up and then sent droves (more than 3 groups) telling them to tell Esau that it was a present from Jacob who was behind them (thinking as vs. 20 tells us ó I will appease him with the present..ö
  - e. Jacob left alone after crossing brook

**B. Jacob wrestling with the Son of God (Gen. 32:24-31)**

1. Pre-incarnate presence of Christ ó
  - a. Vs 25 ó the thigh ó the power
  - b. Vs 26 ó the blessing sought from God
  - c. Vs. 30 - Jacob's own testimony
2. Jacob's Prevailing
  - a. Jacob's wrestling was real ó they took hold of each other and strove as wrestlers do ó no vision or imagination ó as evidenced by his limp afterwards (vs. 31). This "Prevailing" signified his fervent striving with God
  - b. Prevailed ó not by power (Not because God couldn't prevail physically, but God wouldn't ó and couldn't do otherwise consistent with the promises of God (vs 12). He suffered Himself to be prevailed against ó (and this is where Easter has its relevance ó for likewise He suffered Himself to be prevailed against at the cross). Jacob knew that this One He wrestled with was superior when he was made lame in his thigh. So Jacob's victory was clearly not by his own strength.

- c. Jacob also prevailed in his insistence on mercy, claiming blessings only in Christ as one who must have His blessing. This is a picture of God-given faith of a mercy beggar knocking, or akin to His disciples saying, "Where else is there to go?"
3. Vs. 27 - 28 What is His name? This was asked of Jacob, not because God didn't know it, but rather to begin a discourse to show Him he was being blessed (Note both a temporal and spiritual application to this blessing). The nation Israel came directly from Jacob whose name was changed here to "Israel."
  - a. "Jacob" means supplanter (or cheater) He was born holding onto the heel of Esau, his elder twin and then stole his birthright showing there was nothing good in Jacob to recommend him unto God.
  - b. "Israel" means "prince of God." Jacob was an object of God's grace. Vs. 28 As a prince has power signifying that as a "prince" he prevails with God (as one who shall inherit some believe this should be interpreted "and shall prevail")
  - c. Mal. 3:6 ***"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."***
4. Vs. 29 Jacob asked Him for His name, though he knew He was God (He sought His blessing) and by declaration made but Jacob wanted a name to commemorate the place in remembrance as before as He had revealed Himself as the God of Bethel in chap 31. But vs. 29 tells us ***"...God blessed Him there."***
5. Vs. 30 - So Jacob named the place Peniel (same as Penuel in vs. 31) meaning the "face of God" or God hath looked upon me, and shown me favor. Jacob says He saw God ***"face to face,"*** in a way that assured him his life would be preserved (both temporally as he goes forth to Esau and eternally)

C. Picture of Conversion as seen in Gen. 33:8-11:

1. (Read vs. 1 and 4 for introduction and then full text of vs. 8-11)
2. Vs 8 Esau says, ***"...These are to find grace."*** as in order to find grace and acceptance (see 32:20) Note how this illustrates that man's concept of grace is not grace before God at all.
3. vs 9 ***"I have enough"*** God doesn't need that which you can do or contribute
4. vs 10 ***"...as though I had seen the face of God. and thou wast pleased with me..."*** not that which I bring. This is grace!
5. vs 11a Jacob now wants to provide for Esau from gratitude, not in order to merit or gain something saying, ***"... Because God hath dealt graciously with me..."***
6. vs 11b ***"...and because I have enough."*** And the gift was accepted just as obedience to God from a proper motive of gratitude is acceptable before God.

#### D. Conclusion:

1. We all follow this pattern:
  - a. When confronted with the ðrealö Savior ó not a counterfeit
  - b. We need an inheritance ó nothing we earn ó to know we are princes.
  - c. As Jacob found grace with Esau, not based upon that which he offered, he compared it to the grace He saw in the face of Christ, the God-man.
2. 2 Cor. 4:5-7 (Read)
  - a. Note in vs. 7 that this treasure <is> in earthen vessels, that the excellency may be of God. Jacob, was still sometimes referred to by ðJacobö even after God had given him another name. And likewise, weære still supplanters, sinners, prone to wander ó which causes us to ever ook to the excellency of the righteousness of God in Christ.
  - b. Easter message ó
    - (1) Godø's satisfaction with Christø's work is proven by His resurrection. Satisfaction has ben made for any where grace is found ó where it has been merited by the Savior. The blessings of God are only found in the righteousness of Christ ó the merit of His work made the sinnerø's by Godø's gracious imputation of it.
    - (2) All for whom He will show mercy shall be drawn to wrestle (applying the spiritual analogy of Jacobø's story) ó to meet God face to face. Based upon this salvation, we discover there is no where else to go. And all who plead for His mercy and grace based upon that alone, (like Jacob in his temporal deliverance from Esau), shall likewise prevail! There is salvation in no other but sure salvation in Him!
    - (3) I pray God will bring you face to face with this Christ ó whose very resurrection that we celebrate insures the eternal blessings of all for whom He lived and died ó for these He brings to the wrestling mat, to forsake their natural religion and find all their salvation in Him.

Footnote from the author: While this sermon was prepared and delivered by me, I often utilize the commentaries, study helps, and teachings of others to supplement my own prayerful study of the scriptures. Since this document was not originally prepared for publication in print, please excuse and recognize that it was unfeasible to properly identify and credit all of the various original sources used to develop the content herein. Ultimately, it is my sincere and foremost objective to accurately present the gospel of Godø's grace found in the only infallible source, Godø's word itself ó the Bible.