

Surrender To the Will of God – 09/5/21

TEXT- Gen 32:22-32 *And he rose up that night, and took his two wives,*

INTRO – “What is thy name?” He reminds him of his former self, Jacob, the supplanter, the self-reliant, self-seeking.

Rom 6:11-16 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. 16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

I. The Explanation of Surrender

John 12:24-26 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. 25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. 26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*

A. The scene. The north bank of Jabbok

B. The time. Night; the most suitable season for self-examination

C. The circumstances. Jacob was alone.

D. The Fighters

(1) **Jacob:** by nature the supplanter, by grace the heir of the covenant; who in early life had deceived his brother Esau

(2) **A man** - one who in outward appearance wore the form of a man, though in reality "the visible revealer of the invisible God" (Delitzsch); the angel of Jehovah, who in the fullness of the times, incarnated himself as the Word made flesh **John 1:14.**

E. The combat.

(1) **Its continuance.** Beginning probably at midnight, it was protracted until dawn, a circumstance suggestive of Jacob's earnestness and determination, and yet attesting the severe character of all true spiritual conflicts, and the extraordinary difficulty of achieving victories with God

(2) **Its purpose.** Jacob looked for a reassurance of the vision at Bethel and God's commitment to him.

II. The Evidence of Surrender

John Paton was scrutinized by many for leaving a fruitful ministry in Glasgow and moving overseas to bring the gospel to the unreached. This caused anxiety and drove him close to God in prayer. However, one respected elder exclaimed,

“You will be eaten by cannibals!”

To which Paton responded,

“Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms; I confess to you, that if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by Cannibals or by worms; and in the Great Day my Resurrection body will rise as fair as yours in the likeness of our risen Redeemer.”

Rom 12:1-2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

“Before God can use a man greatly he must wound him deeply.”

— Oswald Chambers

A. A deep admission of self-will

B. A deep understanding of the will of God

III. The Effects of Surrender

Of Jacob - Without any support whatever from himself, he hangs upon the conqueror, and in that condition learns by experience the practice of sole reliance on one mightier than himself.

I've learned one thing in my attempts at gardening and landscaping, “You have to get all the roots out to get rid of the weeds.” If not they just keep coming back – over and over again.

A. It means you are willing to go anywhere and do anything in the will of God.

B. It means Spiritual fruit will abound to your account

C. It means peace will reside in your heart

CONCL – Peniel, the face of God, is the name not of God himself, but of the blessed revelation of God. We know where we may find him. We may each one start afresh from our Peniel, where we have been blessed of God, and have through Christ prevailed against the darkness of the future and the helplessness of our own impotence.