



SERMON NOTES

November 10, 2013

Scripture: Genesis 32:1-21 (NAS)

Topic: "Battling Our Fears"

Rev. Bruce Gardner

- 1 Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him.
- 2 Jacob said when he saw them, "This is God's camp." So he named that place Mahanaim.
- 3 Then Jacob sent messengers before him to his brother Esau in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.
- 4 He also commanded them saying, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: 'Thus says your servant Jacob, "I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed until now;
- 5 I have oxen and donkeys and flocks and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight.'"
- 6 The messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and furthermore he is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."
- 7 Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and the herds and the camels, into two companies;
- 8 for he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the company which is left will escape."
- 9 Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD, who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your relatives, and I will prosper you,'
- 10 I am unworthy of all the lovingkindness and of all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant; for with my staff only I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two companies.
- 11 "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, that he will come and attack me and the mothers with the children.
- 12 "For You said, 'I will surely prosper you and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which is too great to be numbered.'"
- 13 So he spent the night there. Then he selected from what he had with him a present for his brother Esau:
- 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,
- 15 thirty milking camels and their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.
- 16 He delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on before me, and put a space between droves."
- 17 He commanded the one in front, saying, "When my brother Esau meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going, and to whom do these animals in front of you belong?'
- 18 then you shall say, 'These belong to your servant Jacob; it is a present sent to my lord Esau. And behold, he also is behind us.'"
- 19 Then he commanded also the second and the third, and all those who followed the droves, saying, "After this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;
- 20 and you shall say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob also is behind us.'"
- 21 For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me. Then afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."
- 21 So the present passed on before him, while he himself spent that night in the camp.

I. TWO OPPOSING STATES OF MAN

A. Contentment *Philippians 4:11*

B. Discontentment And Fear *Deuteronomy 28:66-67*

1. Israelites grumbled, complained and feared the giants
2. Jacob's giant was Esau

II. OUR FEARS

A. What We Fear

B. The Beginning Of Fear *Genesis 3:10*

C. Guilt Unaddressed Propagates Fear *Matthew 5:23,24*

III. JACOB'S PLAN

A. It Was Driven By Fear

B. He Failed To Focus On God's Angels *Psalms 34:7*

C. It Included Groveling Flattery *Matthew 5:5*

D. His Plan Lost Sight Of The Lord's Protection *Romans 8:31*

IV. GOD'S PROVISION

A. It Comes At The Time When It Is Needed

B. God Provides For Our Need In Every Situation *Romans 8:28*

V. JACOB'S PRAYER

A. He Acknowledged God As the Covenant God

B. His Prayer Was Based On God's Promise

C. He Sought God's Grace *John 14:6*

D. He Made A Fervent Plea

E. He Sought God's Purpose