

(Genesis 33-34)
“*The Test After Change*”

~LET'S PRAY~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: **“The Test After Change”**

~INTRO~

IN OUR LAST STUDY...

- We learned God is working out His plan...
 - Thru the seasons of our lives.
- AND... IN... parts of His plan...
 - We may enjoy the changes God brings.
 - But there are also struggles along the way...
 - That are NOT so enjoyable!

WE'LL... TONIGHT...

- We see **The Test After The Change**.
 - Jacob wrestled with God in (Gen. 32:24).
 - And God granted him mercy (i.e. Jacob won).

~STUDY~

NOW... LET'S STRING THE STORY TOGETHER AGAIN...

- There was a family feud in (Gen 27)...
 - It left Jacobs family relationships broken.
- Jacob then goes on the run & flees home at 77-yrs old (Gen.28)...
 - And he lived with extended family members (Uncle Laban).
- Jacob continued to live his life (Gen. 29-30)...
 - And his family grew with marriage & children over 20-years.
- At the end of those two-decades...
 - God stirs up a season of change (Gen. 31)...
 - And Jacob is ordered back home to deal with his past.

SO...

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- Jacob finds himself with an internal conflict between faith & fear...
 - As the fear of his past collides with the present ([Gen. 32](#))...
 - And Jacob wrestling with God for mercy...
 - Before he meets his brother Esau.

HERE'S THE NEXT LAYER OF THE STORY:

IDEA #1 – A CHANGED MAN:

([Gen. 33](#)) continues the story about the crisis Jacob was facing.

- READ ([vv.1-5](#)).

REMEMBER ([Gen. 32:27-28](#)) THE POWERFUL MOMENT...

- Where the crisis carved out the corruption...
 - And Jacob struggled all night with God.

IN THE MORNING... GOD WAS NOT ASKING JACOBS NAME...

- Because he didn't know it.
 - He was asking IF Jacob was ready for change.
 - The crisis drove Jacob to his knees!

AND... JACOB GAINED STRENGTH AS HE WRESTLED WITH GOD!

THE BIBLE TELLS US...

- ([Isa. 40:31-a](#)) NLT
 - “... *Those who trust in the LORD will find new strength.*”

BEFORE THIS MOMENT...

- Jacob manipulated the events from the rear!
 - But after this night (when God changed Jacob)...
 - He enters the next morning with courage & humility.

SO... THE CHAPTER UNFOLDS...

- With Jacob coming face-to-face with Esau...
 - And there's no real trouble that occurs.
 - All the worry was unnecessary!

([Proverbs 16:7](#)) NKJV

*“When a man's ways please the LORD,
He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*

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NOW... THE CHAPTER ENDS...

- With Jacob back in a place of worshipping God ([Gen. 33:18-20](#)).

I LOVE THIS!!!

- I have found that the sweet rest of my soul...
 - Is often found in crisis.
 - God takes that which Satan means for evil...
 - And uses it for good!

IDEA #2 – ANOTHER CRISIS: ([Gen. 34](#))

WELL... SOME TIME HAS PASSED...

- And another crisis surfaces in Jacobs family.
 - His daughter Dinah is violated (raped).

READ ([vv.1-7](#))

THE DETAILS OF THIS STORY ARE INTENTIONALLY LIMITED...

- And we're not to fill in the gaps that God has left open.

THERE'S A LARGER STORY WE'RE FOLLOWING...

- As we read thru the Bible.
- Yes... we can go in-depth with different Bible stories.
 - But the point... is SEEN in the bigger narrative!

SO...

- **WHEN** we take Jacobs life into context...
 - We know that God is still at work on this man.
 - Just like He is with us.

TIME HAS PASSED...

- And his family is different...
 - BUT there are still things that need to be addressed...
 - As God completes what He started.
- The continual theme in Jacobs is NOT trusting God!

NOW... NOTICE WITH ME...

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- That Jacobs sons have taken on the qualities of Jacobs past...
 - [READ \(vv.13-18\).](#)
 - They're scheming.

[READ \(vv.25-29\)](#)

REVENGE...

- *The destructive conquest of youth.*
 - *But vengeance is the mature posture of trusting God!*

AND OFTEN...

- Trusting God is developed as we endure seasons of suffering.

FINALLY...

- The key issue surfaces... [\(v.30\) – Jacobs fear!](#)

WE ALL HAVE THIS CHALLENGE.

- Flip to [\(Ps. 31:21-24\) NLT](#)

~IN CLOSING~

PLEASE UNDERSTAND HOW PRACTICAL GOD IS.

- Jacobs life is not that different from ours.
 - He needed grace because of his sinful tendencies...
 - And so do we!