

Sunday, April 15, 2018
Union Baptist Church, Wilmington
Dr. LaBarron McAdoo, Sr.
Series:
Sermon: Positional Blessings

Struggle til you're straight

-[**Genesis 32:22-32** - (KJV) 22 And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two womenservants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok. 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. 31 And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh. 32 Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

Jacob is on the run and has been on the run for about 20 years. He cheated his brother Esau of a blessing. The brother he cheated was a man's man and he is a momma's boy. His brother was rugged and he was pampered. He is a starter but his brother is a finisher. Trades blessing for a bowl of beans and he steals his brother's blessings with his mother's assistance. Esau is waiting for daddy's funeral so he can have brother's funeral. He is sent to his uncle's house. Jacob ran into the school of hard knocks. He finds a lady that is a sure nuff lady and he works for her. After working 7 years of working for Rachel, he got lazy eyed Leah. He works 7 more years for Rachel. He works another 6 years for stuff he already produced. Laban was cheating the best thing that ever happened to him. His possessions were blessed because of Jacob. Jacob has to formulate a way to leave with stuff he already worked for. He has to sneak out and Laban chased him down but his divine father protects him from Laban. His left from running from Esau. Now, he is running from Laban. He is headed home where Esau still is. He is scared but he is moving. He takes all the stuff that he acquired and divides it in half. Just in case his brother didn't treat him right, the second half had the ability to escape. He sends his brother some messages. 1. He said he has been at Uncle Laban's house and have some stuff. He tells of his possessions and ask for grace. He prepares 9 gifts and sends each group separately with a special message. Finally, it is time to stop running. He pushes everything ahead and he is alone. He is alone and engage in a confrontation. When we think we are alone, we are not as alone as we think. There is a divine confrontation and a man wrestling with God. God is in a wrestling competition and not winning. This man is scared of people but is wrestling with God. Wrestling is not about killing it is about

trying to get control of the opponent through strategy or strength until the opponents is pinned or they submit. How many of us are wrestling with God when all He is trying to do is to get you to submit. Injured and old folks don't tussle long, but Jacob wrestled until the break of day. Our stamina is a massacre for our stupidity. Every time God attempts to pin his opinion changed. The wrestling match is not physical but mental.

1. The Truth Principle - Designed to show us when we get serious. If we are serious about getting straight, our struggle must begin with God. Truth makes opinions unnecessary. Only facing God will prepare you to face your Esau. Esau is the stuff in your past that you are still running from. When you deal with God, it makes dealing with other people easy. God is the only approving agent.
2. The Transition Principle - Your struggle must end with clinging. He stops contesting God now he is clinging to him. He will cause injury to change us from contesting to clinging. If he had surrendered, would he have had to be injured? He injury Jacob so that Jacob could raise his hands. He was disabled blessed. He want from attack mode to attachment mode. He is no longer Jacob now Israel. From trickster to wrestled with God and survived. v. 25 & 26
3. The Testimony Principle - Your walk will become noticeably different. Some missed blessings because how you define them. He was a runner now he is a limper. He is limping to face Esau showing strength. There is no way that you can be with God and walk away the same. He is no longer Jacob but now Israel. From trickster to wrestled with God and survived. V. 27 - 28
 1. He leaves with a proper identity- Israel - God puts His name in Israel's name. v. 28
 2. He leaves with real power - Prince - Now you got something that is reflecting off of God to Him. We are to be influencing men not being influenced by men. v. 28
 3. He leaves you with a perception. He has seen God face to face and lived to tell the story. V. 30
 4. He gets preservation. He sees God and his life is preserved and spared. V. 30