

## *The Greatest Wrestling Match of All Time*



Last Sunday we learned about an unusual wrestling match between Jacob and God. What has brought this man to this wrestle in his life? We observed the road to Jacob's wrestling match with God. The name "Jacob" means "schemer, cheater, one who grabs from behind". Such person likes to take things in his own hands and wrestles to get his own way. Jacob's life up to that event reveals that he was named properly.

What was it that so troubled him that leads to this wrestling? It is because of his nature. Jacob was growing weary of his wrestling with life. He had for a long been wrestling with life. Everything that had happened in his life led to this one critical, crucial

encounter. By nature, he had walked the road of his own choosing, the road of self-will, selfish goal, and the road of his own strength and resources. Finally that road led to one place, the road to Jabbok river, a name which means "wrestling".

We learn from Genesis 32:22-24 that Jacob sent his wives, servants, company, his wealth and children across the Jabbok river to the south side. Then he stayed alone on the other side of the river. Why did he rest alone? Was it because he tired with his life? Was he struggle with the timing of God's plan for his life as well as the direction his life had taken? Was it because his patience had run thin and was perplexed as to where his life was going?

As he was alone with his doubts, dream, and fears, he met and wrestled with "pre-incarnate" Christ. This wrestling brought him to a point of agony and desperation in his soul. In his desperation, Jacob soon realized the precious opportunity before him that God showed up to him. He didn't want to let go God easily. If he let go, then God would leave his needs unmet, and his cried out unanswered. The struggle perhaps went on for hours. Through His mercy and grace, God allowed Jacob to wrestle, to work out his fleshly nature and anxiety... until he's exhausted. Are you right now going through the same thing? You fight hard over some issues in your life and you feel so exhausted?

The turning point came when God touched him in the hollow of his thigh dislocating the socket joint of his thigh. Then suddenly he was in pain and immobilized. He stopped from "wrestling".... and started "clinging"! There's a big difference between wrestle and clinging. Wrestle is fight for a dominance, to cling is to hold onto something firmly, to grasp in desperation.

When Jacob began to cling onto God, suddenly everything changed! God began to bless him with a new name, a new nature. And this was not just a new label on the jar, but a whole new shape to the jar itself! Later, as Jacob released God, he walked with a limp, a weaker man, yet stronger!

Friends, do you see yourself in Jacob? Are you in the night of your struggle, feeling all alone, scared, and afraid? Are you tired of wrestling with life? Are you at the end of yourself? Learn from the wrestling of Jacob with God.

God showed up to Jacob because He wanted to confront Jacob to his weaknesses. Are you ready to acknowledge your weaknesses? Can you see that when you wrestle with life you are indeed wrestling with God? Today surrender yourself to God. Perhaps this is the day, bruised, tired, and pain. Surrender to Him and be willing to face your weaknesses.

As you surrender your life, your wills, your dreams and schemes to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, He will change you and give you a new name, a new nature, a new destiny, and a secure future. Are you ready for your "transformation" and discover the better version of you in God?