

## “Seeking & Finding Favor” Genesis 33:1-20

### JACOB WENT BEFORE THEM. v.1-3

1. Seeing Esau and 400 men in the distance, Jacob divided his family in particular order. v.1-2
2. Jacob went before them in a posture of humility. v.3
  - Jacob put himself before his family. And he was limping. Bowed 7 times → “I am your servant”

### THE REUNION & RECONCILIATION. v.4-11

1. It was an unexpected gracious reunion. v.4
    - Esau ran to his brother, embraced him, fell on his neck & kissed him... and they wept. Cf. Luke 15
    - Prov. 17:9: Whoever covers an offense seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.
  2. Jacob sought favor from Esau his brother. v.5-8
    - He acknowledged the work and gifts of God in his life. v.5
    - His wives and children all approached and bowed down to Esau. v.6-7
    - Jacob is clear: I am seeking your favor. v.8
  3. Jacob found favor from Esau his brother. v.9-11
    - Recall Jacob earlier sent a “present” to Esau. 32:13-21 “Perhaps he will accept me.”
    - Esau’s response: I have enough! v.9
    - Jacob insisted that Esau receive his gift—and he did. v.10-11
- The reconciliation was sealed by accepting the gift. – just like the cross!

### THE NECESSARY TRANSACTION OF THE CROSS

1. God is Just and Holy. He cannot overlook sin.
  2. Man has broken God’s law (sin) and rebelled against His rule. Rom. 3:23: all have sinned
    - We cannot make up for it. Transactional – we have a “bill” we cannot pay!
  3. God does not just ‘forgive’ our sin by ignoring it. A payment is necessary.
  4. The only payment sufficient to atone for (pay for, make up for) our sin:
    - Had to be one of us—truly and fully man.
    - Had to be perfect enough (no blemish) and sufficient enough (truly perfect & infinite)—truly God.
- Christ’s atonement on the cross was the only sufficient “gift” that could reconcile God and man.
- The confirmation goes both ways.... When we look at God & when He looks at us. Lev. 16:14

### ESAU’S INVITATION, JACOB’S PLAN AND GOD’S FAITHFULNESS. v.12-20

1. Esau invited Jacob to journey with him and join him in Seir—outside the Promised Land. v.12-16
    - Come live with me in Seir (outside the Promised Land). v.12-14
    - Esau offered to leave some people with Jacob’s family—but Jacob declined. v.15-16
- They were reconciled (at peace) but they would live apart. God had different plans for their lives.
2. Jacob planned to make his way back to the Promised Land. v.17-20
    - He first traveled to Succoth. v.17
    - Then he arrived safely in Shechem (within the boundaries of the Promised Land). v.18
    - He bought land there. v.19
    - He built an altar: El-Elohe-Israel. v.20 Lit. “God, the God of Israel” → ‘You are *my* God’  
-the same place his grandfather Abraham built an altar (Gen. 12:6-7)

### 3. God kept His promise—and so did Jacob! Gen. 28:20-22

Genesis 28:20-22: Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God’s house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you.”