

# Jacob “Wrestles” with God

05-17-09

Read: **Genesis 25:21-28**

Genesis 25:26 – “Jacob” – “One who takes by the heel or supplants”

## **Genesis 3:14 & 15**

A snake will strike at the heel  
What would a dog do to a horse?  
You might kick or grab the heel of someone to trip them

**Are you getting a picture in your mind of what his name meant?**

Jacob – “Deceiver”

## **Genesis 25:29-34**

Notice Jacob’s manipulation of the situation

## **Genesis 27:1-45**

## **Genesis 28:10-21**

## **Genesis 29:1-20**

Laban deceived Jacob – gave him Leah instead of Rachel

Jacob (Deceiver) meets Laban (Master deceiver)

## **Genesis 29:26 & 27**

Dysfunctional family

## **Genesis 30:25-28**

Once again, Laban talks Jacob into staying with him

Jacob names his wages:

## **Genesis 30:32 & 33**

So they separate the flocks...

## **Genesis 30:37-43**

Jacob uses his own methods to make his flocks increase – doesn’t rely on God

-Lucky rabbit’s foot, lucky penny, wishes upon a star, etc.

### **Genesis 31:1-13**

God revealed to Jacob that it was really God who caused the livestock to produce abundantly for Jacob

Jacob is beginning to see it was really God (he's not there yet...)

So Jacob packs up everything and quietly slips away with all his family, herds and flocks without letting Laban know.

### **Genesis 31:22-31**

Jacob was afraid

They make a covenant and leave a pile of rocks to remind them of it

### **Genesis 32:1-12**

Jacob is terrified, Esau is coming - with an army!

Jacob can't go back where he came from – he has “burned his bridges” with Uncle Laban...

Esau is coming – He's between a rock and a hard place – nowhere to turn, so...

He cries out to God; “deliver me!” ... “remember, you said you would be with me...”

### **Genesis 32:22-30**

Jacob “wrestles with God”

He clings to Him and begs Him to bless him.

He knew it was God

### **Genesis 33:1-4**

Jacob offers a very large gift – to hopefully satisfy his brother

They embraced!

They wept!

### **Genesis 33:9-11**

*“I see your face as one sees the face of God!”*

Summary:

**How did Jacob live most of his life?**

**Who did he rely on?**

**What did God want him to do?**

**What does God want us to do?**

We may be completely reliant on God, and be just where He wants us to be...

But...

Sometimes we may need to come to a place where we are desperate and we cling to God

**Comments**

Closing prayer