

When Selfishness Rules

What's In a Name?

Genesis 32:24-29

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I. Back to the Beginning – Genesis 25:21-26

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21 And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. **22** The children struggled together within her, and she said, “If it is thus, why is this happening to me?”^b So she went to inquire of the LORD. **23** And the LORD said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you^c shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”

24 When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. **25** The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. **26** Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob.^d Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

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I. Back to the Beginning – Genesis 25:21-26

II. A God First Focus in a Me Focused World

Matthew 19:30

But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Luke 9:25

For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?

C. S. Lewis

We do not take pride in the possession itself but rather in having more of it than someone else.

Genesis 27:15-22

15Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her older son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son. **16**And the skins of the young goats she put on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. **17**And she put the delicious food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

18So he went in to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" **19**Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me." **20**But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the LORD your God granted me success." **21**Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." **22**So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." **23**And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands. So he blessed him.

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III. Wrestling with God – Genesis 32:26-28

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Exodus 3:13-15

13 Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” **14** God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”^a And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

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15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD,^b the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

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Have you wrestled with God as you try to navigate this “me first” world?

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Then you may need a new beginning!