



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - The Pursuit of God

June 8, 2020

Approaching God

Opening Prayer - (from *The Valley of Vision*)

*Let me learn by paradox
that the way down is up
that to be low is to be high
that the broken heart is the healed heart
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit
that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all,
that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,
that to give is to receive,
that the valley is the place of vision*

*Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from
deepest wells, and the deeper the wells the
brighter the stars shine;
Let me find they light in my darkness,
thy life in my death,
thy joy in my sorrow,
thy grace in my sin,
thy riches in my poverty
thy glory in my valley.*

This Week's Study: The Pursuit of God

This week we are looking at the theme: "Pursuing God with Great Intensity."

We saw this theme emerge in Paul's letter to the Philippians when he said: "*What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ... I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.*" This week we will meditate on scripture and ask God to search and align our hearts that knowing Christ might become our greatest treasure.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Genesis 32:1-32

Genesis 32:1- 32 - 1 Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. **2** And when Jacob saw them he said, "This is God's camp!" So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

3 And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom, **4** instructing them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have sojourned with Laban and stayed until now. **5** I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.'"

6 And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and there are four hundred men with him." **7** Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed. He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps, **8** thinking, "If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape."

9 And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,' **10** I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. **11** Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. **12** But you said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

13 So he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, **14** two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, **15** thirty milking camels and their calves, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. **16** These he handed over to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me and put a space between drove and drove." **17** He instructed the first, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?' **18** then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a present sent to my lord Esau. And moreover, he is behind us.'" **19** He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the droves, "You shall say the same thing to Esau when you find him, **20** and you shall say, 'Moreover, your servant Jacob is behind us.'" For he thought, "I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterward I shall see his face. Perhaps he will accept me." **21** So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself stayed that night in the camp.

22 The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23** He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had. **24** And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. **25** When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. **26** Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." **27** And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." **28** Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." **29** Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. **30** So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered." **31** The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. **32** Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

Daily Study Questions

Jacob was facing a great difficulty in this chapter. Esau, his brother whom he deceived out of his birthright, was coming to meet him. Jacob feared this meeting and what may happen as a result. In the midst of Jacob's fear, God meets with Him. This meeting with God transforms Jacob.

- What initially motivated Jacob's prayer? What was He seeking from God in the beginning? How does this correspond to our own prayer lives?

- How would you describe Jacob's walk with God and faith in Genesis 32:1-24? What seems to be lacking from his walk with God and his faith?
- Interpret the significance of the following things from this passage:
 - *Prayer described as a wrestling match with a man:*
 - *Jacob's hip being crippled:*
 - *The man telling Jacob to let him go:*
 - *Jacob refusing to let go:*
 - *Jacob receiving a new name:*

Application & Meditation

- What is God primarily after in your prayer time with Him? What might He be wanting to accomplish?
- How ought the truth you have learned in this passage affect your pursuit of God?

Close in Prayer:

Rejoice: - What can you praise and rejoice in from today's study?

Repent: - What do you need to confess and ask for forgiveness?

Request: - What do you want to ask God for today as a result of your study?

"In any case—pray no matter what. Praying is rowing, and sometimes it is like rowing in the dark—you won't feel that you are making any progress at all. Yet you are, and when the winds rise again and they surely will, you will sail again before them."

Tim Keller