

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 3 September 13, 2022, to September 18, 2022

Unit I: GOD Calls Abraham's Family

Subject: Persevere in Times of Difficulty

Text: Genesis 32: 22-32

Key Verse: “[The man] said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with GOD and with men, and hast prevailed (Genesis 32: 28, KJV).”

Lesson Pointers

- 1) Struggling for Supremacy/Struggling with GOD (Genesis 32: 22-26)
- 2) Misaligned Priorities/Struggling with Self (Genesis 32: 27-34)

Introduction

Now, often GOD promises includes unavoidable and inconvenient struggle. Struggle has a tendency to rank among those unpleasant realities that we tend to avoid, like, pain, conflict, anxiety, physical, psychological, social discomfort, and depression. But we have come to understand as Christians that experiencing struggle is a necessary part of life. Struggle helps us to appreciate GOD'S blessings, and to worship HIM (GOD) with excitement and joy for what HE (GOD) has brought us through. The prophets that GOD selected and called faced struggles; Jeremiah faced beatings, death threats, and imprisonment. Even the apostle Paul faced many conflicts for proclaiming the Gospel (Read 2 Corinthians 11: 23-28). Our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST endured suffering to secure our salvation. GOD the FATHER prepares us for HIS purpose for our lives through struggles. The very ways in which GOD uses to determine our readiness is perseverance through adversity.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Struggling for Supremacy/Struggling with GOD (Genesis 32: 22-26)

Now as Jacob returned to Canaan, Jacob's attitudes and his actions suggested that he had and overwhelming struggle with surrendering, submission, and trusting GOD. Jacob sent many gifts ahead to Esau, as he stayed the night in the camp. Jacob sensing the very need to be alone, sent his family across the Jabbok, and after that he sent over all his possessions as well (Genesis 32: 22-23). Now, Jacob was all alone, and there wrestled a man with him until daybreak (Genesis 32: 24). When we think that we are in control and not GOD, we struggle for supremacy or struggle with GOD, because we do not want to give up control of our lives. You, see, Jacob refused to admit defeat even when the man disabled him (Genesis 32: 25). Now, Spiritually, Jacob's unwillingness, and even our unwillingness to concede defeat is a symbol of his, our, refusal to submit to GOD'S authority over his (Jacob's) or over our lives. When we realize defeat, the only thing that one can do is to hold on and ask your opponent for a blessing (Genesis 32: 26). Jacob realized that blessings is a result of obediently submitting to GOD in stead of struggling against GOD'S will. We to are guilty

of struggling against GOD when we seek to do things our way instead of obeying GOD'S Word. The only way to overcome our struggles is by acknowledging our weakness and submitting to GOD'S authority over our lives. In so many words, let go, and let GOD have HIS reign in our lives.

Persevere in Times of Difficulty!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **Misaligned Priorities/Struggling with Self (Genesis 32: 27-32)**

When our priorities are misaligned, we tend to struggle with our self. While struggling with the inner self, we need to confess our sinful nature, acknowledge a need for spiritual transformation in our lives. Jacob struggled with himself, wrestling with the ungodly nature that capture his given name, Jacob. So, much, so, that the man whom Jacob wrestled with asked his (Jacob's) name (Genesis 32: 27). This was not for any information but rather a direct link between Jacob's name and his nature. Jacob continues his struggle until he saw himself for who and what he was, a schemer, a manipulator, and a deceiver. We to as Christians tend to hold on, until our very character is revealed. When Jacob gave his name, he acknowledged his true character and the need for transformation. The confession Jacob made was a result of a new name, Israel (Genesis 32: 28). Jacob wanted to know the name of the man that he wrestled with confirmed the reality of his life-changing experience (only GOD blesses) (Genesis 32: 29). Jacob now realized whom he wrestled with (GOD) and named the place Peniel, "face of GOD," because Jacob had seen GOD face-to-face and survived (Genesis 32: 30). Now, the physical outcome of Jacob's encounter left him with a noticeable limp (Genesis 32: 31). Now, Spiritually, Jacob's limp was a reminder of his self-confidence, arrogance, and pride. Now Jacob had a new walk that was a testimony of his changed life (Genesis 32; 32). Jacob learned that receiving the blessings of GOD'S covenant, he had to become a new man or person and not doing things his way. Now, our struggles, forces us to see our self for who we are, and teaches us how to persevere and prevail, and acknowledge our need for GOD.

Persevere in Times of Difficulty!

Lesson Nuggets

- 1) **We must be willing to submit to GOD'S authority (Genesis 32: 25)**
- 2) **Realizing defeat and asking for a blessing (Genesis 32: 26)**
- 3) **Realizing who it is that is in control (genesis 32: 30).**
- 4) **Having a noticeable injury (Genesis 32: 31)**
- 5) **Our physical injuries from and encounter with GOD are reminders of our self-confidence, arrogance, and pride (Genesis 32: 32).**