

Men's Retreat 2010

Session 1 ... "No Longer Jacob"

INTRO ... No Longer Jacob?

Gen 32:27-28 The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. 28 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." NIV

- **What is your name?**

"The giving of names in the ancient world was a significant act. A name was believed to affect a person's destiny" "The Bible Background Commentary", p. 58

Gen 27:36 "Esau said, 'Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has cheated me these two times.'"

Jacob = Ya aqob (Heb.) – *from the Hebrew word aqab - a verb meaning to grasp at the heel, to supplant, to deceive. This verb is derived from the noun meaning heel (aqeb). The first occurrence sets the backdrop for the other uses. After Jacob tricked his brother Esau out of Isaac's blessing, Esau says, "He is rightly called 'Jacob'—for he has tricked (Jacobed) me twice"*(from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament)

A Life of "Jacobing" people

- **40 Years of Being Jacob**

What's YOUR "Name"?....What pattern so dominates who you are that you've come to expect it in your life, and so has everyone close to you?

- **"No longer Jacob ... but Israel"** The great day when God Overturns Our Controlling Idol(s)!!

1Cor 6:9-12

v. 9-10.... Consider the list of "Jacobs" ... It's a pretty INTIMIDATING and DOMINANT List. Guys who are on this list will live entire LIFETIMES under the shadow of these behaviors.

... Today, we don't just call these Problems—we call them ADDICTIONS!!

Addiction = a habit; a compulsion; a dependence; a need; an obsession; a craving

v. 11 ... Such WERE!!! " ...No Longer _____"

What made the difference? ... You were WASHED... SANCTIFIED ... JUSTIFIED

Washed = Regeneration ...

Sanctified = Set Apart to God's Holy Purpose (Meaning in Life)

Justified = Accepted, no longer Alienated (Feeling Unaccepted & Alienated is the source of all kinds of "people sins & idols")

Titus 3:1-8

Note the High Expectation for their Current Behavior ... v. 1-2, 8

...Even though they were "once" (formerly but not anymore)—v. 4

"BUT when God moved and Saved us ... That Made All The DIFFERENCE!! ... v. 4-5

These are Passive Verbs with the EMPHASIS on WHAT GOD DOES!!

... **Why Was Jacob "no longer Jacob"?** ... Because God Changed His Name

v. 12 ... The Result ... **"I will not be enslaved by ANYTHING!!!"**

... Anything?

... This is how Jacob Becomes "Israel" ... but How Did Jacob Become Jacob?

How Does a Jacob Become a Jacob?

1. From His Birth ... Gen 25:21-26

"When we first meet Jacob, he's not even born and already he's involved in a struggle with his brother, Esau. He is born grabbing his brother's heel, either trying to overtake him or to trip him up. In many ways, that first encounter sets the stage for all that will follow." Iain Duguid, "Living in the Grip of Relentless Grace", p. 6

2. From His Upbringing ... Gen 25:27-28

- Jacob came from a DYSFUNCTIONAL HOME

3. From His Own Ambition ...

"Jacob possessed an uncommon amount of that common characteristic, ambition. For most of his life, he was determined to have his way. If necessary, he would lie, cheat, and steal to accomplish that—a 'deceiver,' his brother called him. Do you know anyone like that?"
Howard Hendricks, (quoted in "Jacob" by Gene Getz, p. ix)

Gen 25:29-34

- Jacob WANTED Esau's Place of Blessing ... and he sought ways to take it
- ESAU represents the man who throws away his future for a moment of pleasure.

Gen 27:1-13

Good to Remember – "Everybody's After Something" ... Mixed into our "Pure Intentions" is some element of Our Own Ambition:

- **Isaac Has an Ambition** ... to secretly give the Blessing to His Favorite Son Esau
- **Rebekah Has an Ambition** ... to steal the Blessing for Her Favorite Son Jacob
- **Esau has Ambition** ... to take what isn't His any longer
- **Jacob has Ambition** ...

NOTE: Everyone Pays for their Selfish Ambition

There's Plenty of Blame to Go Around. But the most important factor was What Jacob WANTED! We might be able to better understand some of how Jacob's Ambitions were formed—but when the Moment Comes... "Jacob is Doing What Jacob WANTS to Do"

James 1:13-15 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

People Don't Choose Righteousness, Because They Don't WANT TO!!

...When Joseph refuses the advances of POTIPHAR's Wife ... He is Doing What He WANTS to Do!
...When Moses refuses to live life as an EGYPTIAN PRINCE ... He is Doing What He WANTS to do!
... When Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego refuse to bow down to the gods of Babylon ... They're doing what they WANT to do!

Lakeview Christian Center

Men's Retreat 2010 - "No Longer 'Jacob'"

Pastor Keith Collins

Dan 3:14-18 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" 16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

When the gods of this world "play their music", offer you their promises, and make their threats—Do You Bow Down to Them?

... If so, it's not because you HAVE TO—IT's because you WANT TO! ... even if that "want to" is based in Fear of What Will Happen if You Don't.

How does a DRUNKARD become a Drunkard?

- He may have had a greater natural propensity... He may have been influenced by dysfunctional parents ... but he is DEFINITELY DOING WHAT HE WANTS.

How does a PORNAGRAPHER become a Pornographer?

... His Own Desire He Wants PLEASURE He Wants to ESCAPE or Be Distracted from DIFFICULTY

How Does a Deceiver/Exaggerator/Spin-master Become That?

... His Own Desire He doesn't just want to lie—He wants to Accomplish Something by making use of Lying – ***Lying = a SURFACE IDOL***

- He Wants to IMPRESS In order to get your attention/admiration
- He wants to PROTECT/COVER-UP a sinful habit
 - ... to Achieve continuing to have its pleasures
 - ... to Avoid the consequences

How Did I Get "This" Way? How'd I Get my "Name"?

... Did Other Factors Contribute? ... YES

... But the deciding factor is found in What I Want!

Jacob sought a benefit... at the expense of others

What Was it Like to be a Part of Jacob's Life? ... What was it like to be his parent, his brother, his wife, his child, his friend?

What's the expense others will pay for the Idols of the Flesh; the Idols of the Eyes; and the Idols of Pride?

What's the expense others will pay for the Idols of the Eyes - for your pornography?

What's the expense others pay for the "Pride of Life Idols" - your life-long quest for importance, approval, status, respect?

What's the expense others pay for your Idols of the Flesh (craving ease & comfort)?

"two nations are in your womb"

- Jacob's life didn't just affect Jacob!

- Remember, idols are STUBBORN—the idols from "beyond the Euphrates River" were still having a debilitating impact over 700 yrs later (Josh 24)

Who is in this room "in you" that is under the impact of unchecked idolatry?