

Making Things Right 7-24-16

Gen 33:3-6

He himself went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.4 But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.5 And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

When kids are learning to walk it is a combination of success & painful failure.

- Learning to walk spiritually is also trial & error.
- Reconciliation with Esau was a mixture of the flesh & faith. 33:1-5, 8-11

Jacob rightfully assumes the worst but then wrongly divided his family by favoritism.

- There was no need for the escape plan if his trust was completely in Lord.
- He was also trusting in his gift to appease Esau.
 - It was a custom not to accept an enemy's gift,
 - There was a push for him to accept to make sure Esau not still angry with him.

Flesh still dominates much of Jacob but he's beginning to walk by faith.

- He changed the original plan & went ahead of his family to meet Esau.
 - He suffered 1st & was willing to die so his family would be spared.
- They are witnesses to God's grace in his life and for his family. 33:5, 10, 11, Jas 1:17
- He recognized & acknowledged God's grace which was evidenced by Esau's response

Classic meeting of reconciliation, just like the prodigal son's return. 33:3-4, Lk 15:20-22

- Esau humbled himself by breaking cultural norms (men walk not run).
- The kiss was an indication of forgiveness, just like the robe (proof of acceptance), the ring (sign of sonship) & the sandals (status of free man not slave/poor).

Grace is lavished on those who deserved it the least...Jacob, prodigal son, and us.

- Our conscience condemned us & we had an appropriate anxiety that God was going to punish us.
- But in our desire/effort at reconciliation, our Father came running toward us, not to harm us, but to embrace/kiss us... this is the heart of gospel of Christ.
 - God's love is constant, patient, & welcoming.
- He is rich in His mercy & grace and ready to grant forgiveness & salvation even to the greatest and the grossest sinner who repents.

Jacob's reconciliation accomplished a goal but fell short in many ways.

- We are not to delay, or take offense when we know we have sinned against someone. Mt 5:22-24
- Confess sin 1st to God & prayerfully ask Him to reveal all areas of your sin. 1 Jn 1:9, Ps 139:23-24, Jam 5:16a, 1 Pet 3:10-11
 - Actions, Attitude, Words.
- Within the circle of offense, verbally confess wrongs & ask for forgiveness.

- Don't project pride (If I was wrong), blame (we both were wrong), justify, expect forgiveness.
 - Don't say, "I'm sorry" but say "I was wrong"
- State specific offense, ask for forgiveness, if applicable offer compensation/restitution.
 - Allow restitution, not as precondition for coming back, but as result of coming back.

Asking forgiveness is only a beginning.

- Take time & put in effort to rebuild relationship.

Reconciling imitates the heart of God and gives you a clear conscience which produces personal & spiritual growth, and is necessary for Christ-centered community.

- We exist to bring glory to God in all things by making disciples through Christ-centered worship, Christ-centered community, Christ-centered service, and Christ-centered multiplication.