

# WHEN IS IT RIGHT TO FIGHT WITH GOD

Elijah dela Cruz, Guest Preacher

## Break the Ice.

- If you could rename yourself, what name would you choose?

In Genesis 32, we find Jacob wrestling with an angel and ended with limp for the rest of his life. After a long absence, he was returning to Canaan, the Promised Land, in obedience to God. Returning meant he would have to face his brother, Esau, whom he had cheated 20 years before. Jacob had no clue how Esau would receive him. When Jacob's messengers came back and said that Esau was coming to meet him with 400 men, Jacob froze with fear. Esau could easily wipe out everything that was of value to Jacob, including Jacob! And so he prayed, "Oh, God, deliver me from Esau!" (v. 11).

## Scripture. Genesis 32:22-32 NIV

### Observe:

- To save his family, servants and properties, Jacob sent his family away (vv. 22-24). Was there ever a time in your life when you tried to save what you love out of fear?
- Jacob meant to face his unfinished business with his brother alone. Why is it important to finish our business/fight? What is the significance of unfinished businesses in our spiritual life and our future?
- It was God who commanded Jacob to return, not just to finish his business with his brother, but because the Promised Land was where the promises of God must be fulfilled. The fight for fulfillment must happen in the promised land.. Did you ever try to walk away from a fight? What kind of escapes did you try?
- The Bible says an unnamed man wrestled with Jacob all night until daybreak. Who do you think was this person and what do you think does this fight signify?
- The man said "let me go..." which means, Jacob did not give up. What does this teach us about Jacob? What can we learn from his perseverance?
- We know through verses 28-30 that the man said was no ordinary being. Jacob recognized that the man had the authority to rename him and bless him. Jacob also declared that in fighting with that man he "saw God face to face." He wrestled with a Theophany (a revelation of God in human form). What is the significance of Jacob fighting with God? Why would God pick a fight with Jacob?
- In the ancient times, giving one's name to their opponent is a sign of surrender. The only way to win a fight with God is by submission. God made Jacob realize that there was no way for him to continue on the blessed path apart from surrendering to the Lord's will. At the end of the fight, the man touched his hip which gave Jacob a limp, and he was never the same again. It was a sign that he will always need to lean and depend on God for everything. Jacob won in the form of submission.

### Apply:

- What fights in your life is God calling you finish?
- Are you currently fighting with God? (Perhaps He is telling you to give something up, reach someone for God, forgive somebody, trust Him in your finances, break off a relationship that dishonors him, etc.)
- Are there areas in your life that remain un-surrendered to the Lord? Name these areas. You won't have victory unless you acknowledge them.
- Are you a heart planner or a mind planner?
- Do you have future plans that you never consulted God about? (People oftentimes plan their future without ever asking God for direction. They just plan what seems right in their minds and ask God to bless it. Do you think God is pleased with that kind of planning? Read Psalm 37:23-24, Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 1:5).
- At the end of Jacob's fight, he received a blessing of a new name and a fresh start. The Lord's blessings in your life are on their way, they just be delayed because of our lack of surrender. How can you surrender to God in practical (doable) ways?

### Pray.

- Ask for prayer requests related to your individual battles.

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