



New Covenant

Peaceful Relations
(Genesis 33:1-20)

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- A. Jacob's Manner of Approach**
- B. Esau's Reception of Jacob**
- C. Jacob's Commitment to the Lord**

A. Jacob's Manner of Approach

1. Jacob is calm and serene. He goes out in front believing that if God is with him he can face the most fearful thing he has to face(his brother) after 20 years of being apart.

2. Application: When we are afraid of individuals and circumstances we are forgetting Jesus' promise "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

"When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."
Proverbs 16:7

3. If Jacob will nurture his relationship with the Lord and seek Him then he has nothing to fear.

4. Jacob is humble. Normally when someone "has It out for us" we tend to slander that person or figure out how to get back at them. Jacob, however, bows down to his brother.

5. Application: When we face hostility and difficult relationships we can learn from Jacob to

"Bless those who persecute [us]; bless and do not curse them." (Romans 12:14) and seek to serve those who seem to have it out for us.

"Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it[a] to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' To the contrary, 'if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:17-21)



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B. Esau's Reception of Jacob

1. Jacob's life has been transformed by grace, but so much of his life is still not at it should be.
2. Jacob's past: Did everything he could to lay hold of the blessing.
3. Jacob's present: Willing to give a large amount of what he owns.
4. He attributes his changed life to the grace of God in saying "God has been gracious to me." He realizes that nothing he has he deserves. Everything he has the Lord had given. It is not by anything Jacob had done.
5. God was merciful and gracious to Jacob because it pleased Him and it was His eternal purpose and counsel. "Jacob I have loved. Esau I have hated."
6. There is a stark contrast between the two brothers in their meeting. Jacob seeks to please the Lord and doesn't want the relationship with his brother to be left open-ended. Esau thinks he has done fine for himself. Jacob is repentant. Esau is unrepentant.
7. Application: As much as it depends on us we ought to seek peace in our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. When we are reconciled to God we will also seek to be reconciled to others. If we are found in Jesus, who is our peace, He will work grace in our lives to be reconciled in our relationships as He did for Jacob.

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12:18

Leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:24

C. Jacob's Commitment to the Lord

1. Jacob's temptation is to go back to live in the world of Esau, but he did not.
2. It is a fearful thing for Jacob to be tempted to return to the world. He is committed to the Lord though imperfect. His heart is not fully obedient, and he acknowledges he is a sinner and repents.
3. Everything about Jacob's life is about God's eternal plan of redemption.
4. Application: We, like Jacob don't do anything to deserve the grace and mercy of God. We needed the Greater Son of Jacob to come and walk perfectly to the cross and in humble service to His enemies (i.e. those who hate Him by nature; the unrighteous) die on the cross.
5. The reconciliation in Genesis 33 is entirely dependent on what Jesus came to do.