



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, October 20, 2024 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

Fear that Leads to Prayer

Genesis 32:1-21

1. Good fear and bad fear motivates prayer. (Genesis 32:1-8)

2. Prayers of desperation bring an earnestness to our encounters with God. (Genesis 32:9-12)



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Sermon Notes

3. Prayer enables planning. (Genesis 32:13-21)

Table Talk

- 1) How does Jacob feel about meeting the messengers of God? Why does he call the place, “two camps”? Why does Jacob initiate contact with Esau? What causes Jacob to be afraid of Esau? Why does he now divide his group into two camps? (vv. 1-8)
- 2) What evidence do we see that Jacob’s prayer is one of desperation? Give an example of a time when you prayed in desperation. What elements do we observe in Jacob’s prayer? How might we imitate Jacob in this prayer, particularly in this election season? (vv. 9-12)
- 3) What actions does Jacob take after prayer? What reasons does Jacob give for these actions? How do you think Jacob felt as he laid down in his camp for the night on the edge of the Jabbok ravine? What does he anticipate could happen in the morning? What fears trouble you in the night? How do you cope with those fears? (vv. 13-21)
- 4) From a human point of view, how might the promise of God be under threat in this episode of Jacob’s life? Where do we see the Gospel in this episode?