



Too Soon to Quit by Warren W. Wiersbe Chapter 2 -Jacob, the Father
Presented by Dr. Tanya C. Ingram, Director, Christian Education
August 5, 2020 myretirement.americanfunds.com

I. Jacob, the Father

- A. Jacob was the grandson of Abraham, the son on of Isaac, the brother of Esau and the father of the twelve men who founded the 12 tribes of Israel.
- B. Genesis 25:21-26 inform us that Jacob and his twin brother Esau were answers to prayer, for Isaac and Rebekah had been married twenty years before their twins arrived.

II. Dysfunctional Family - *Family dynamics are challenging and families that follow God are not exempt from trouble and conflict.*

- A. Jacob's life was not easy. He and his brother did not get along. They were opposites and did not share common interests. Jacob was a homebody while Esau was an outdoors man.
- B. His parents had favorites: Isaac favored Esau and Rebekah favored Jacob.
- C. God had ordained Jacob would receive the family blessing and birthright but Isaac ignored what God said.
- D. Rebekah chose to accomplish God's will her own way.
- E. The results of Isaac and Rebekah's disobedience hurt their family.
 - 1. Isaac and Rebekah did not trust one another, didn't trust God and their family suffered.
 - 2. Jacob and Rebekah teamed up to take the blessing from Esau by scheming against him.
 - 3. Esau threatened to kill his brother, so Rebekah sent Jacob 500 miles away.
 - 4. What was supposed to be a "little while" lasted for two decades living with his Uncle Laban.
- F. Yet in the midst of this miserable time Jacob met the Lord at Bethel.
- G. Life will teach difficult lessons and a personal relationship with God is what is needed to overcome.
- H. No matter how difficult the season God is always waiting and wanting a relationship with us.

III. Family Deception, Family Conflict

- A. Trickery, envy, rivalry, competition, and unbelief marked the personal dynamics of this family
- B. Jacob experienced trouble as he tried to build a home life.
 - 1. Jacob fell in love with Laban's younger daughter Rachel.
 - 2. Laban approved their marriage but required Jacob to shepherd his flocks for seven years.
 - 3. Laban tricked Jacob and gave Leah instead of Rachel in marriage. Jacob confronted Laban the next day and Laban promised to give him Rachel to wed, but only if he served him another seven years.
- C. Jacob experienced a series of problems in the field.
 - 1. Laban was a trickery taskmaster and sought to take advantage of Jacob.
 - 2. Jacob's way to handle this was to offer to care for Laban's flocks without wages if he could begin to build his own flocks from Laban's inferior sheep and goats.

3. God strengthened and increased Jacob's flocks and he became a wealthy man. This angered Laban and he repeatedly blamed Jacob for his loss. God can bless despite human efforts.
 4. After seven years, the Lord told Jacob to go back home. Jacob tried to slip away but Laban caught up with him. But the Lord warned Laban in a dream not to mistreat Jacob.
- D. Jacob experienced trouble in his family as a father.
1. His past caught up with him when he met with Esau as he made his way home.
 2. The Lord had to wrestle with Jacob and crippled him to get him to trust instead of bargain.
 3. At Shechem his daughter Dinah was raped and his sons Simeon and Levi became murders.
 4. Rachel, died after giving birth to Benjamin. At Hebron, Jacob was re-united with Isaac then he died. Jacob's sons sold their brother Joseph and told him he was dead, a loss he grieved greatly.
 5. In the midst of this God was working everything out for him in order to preserve his family and build a nation. (Genesis 42)

IV. Jacob's Secret Strength - God offered Jacob evidence that He loved Him.

A. The first evidence of God's love was God chose Jacob.

1. Jacob knew that come what may, the Lord loved him
2. Twice in the Bible we find God saying "Jacob I have loved" (Mal. 1:2; Rom. 9:13)
3. Simply knowing God loves you can encourage you and keeping you from giving up.
4. God choose Jacob over Esau and that is evidence of His love.
5. God's electing grace isn't based on our character or our conduct, for the Lord had chosen Jacob before the twins had been born or had done anything good or bad (Rom. 9:10-16).

B. The second evidence of God's love was He Spoke to Jacob (Hearing God's Voice)

1. God spoke to Jacob.
2. The fact that an all-powerful, all knowing God speaks to us through His word and His Spirit should give us every reason to keep going.
3. The vision Jacob had that night at Bethel taught him the Lord is powerful and caring.
4. What Jacob saw prepared him for what he heard. God did not scold him for his past behavior, God reaffirmed the same covenant He had made with his father and grandfather.
5. If we want to have overcoming power it's essential that we hear God's voice as we read and meditate on the Word of God.

C. The third evidence was of God's love was that He disciplined Jacob (Learning from Discipline)

1. Hebrew 12:1-13 focuses on Christians as athletes, running a race God planned for them and not giving up
2. Athletes must be discipline if they expect to endure the challenge of live.
3. The word "discipline" is a close relative of the word "disciple".
4. The fact that God disciplines us is proof that we are truly His children.
5. Once of God's disciplines is to allow us to reap what we have sown.

D. Sometimes the Father gives us a permanent reminder to humble us and encourage us.

E. The fourth evidence of God's love is He patiently fulfills His purpose in us and through (His Purposes, in His Time)

1. God is not in hurry.
2. God has a purpose for each of His children. We must be patient as He works for us and within us to accomplish that purpose.

3. Keep in mind **Psalm 37:7-9 (NIV2011)**.
 4. Remember **Philippians 1:5-6 (NIV2011)**.
- F. Finally we know God loves us because in spite of our failures He uses us (A Blessed to Be A Blessing)**
1. He makes us a blessing to others.
 2. Jacob had been a blessing to his family, his father-in-law, and a powerful ruler.
 3. The trials of life should never keep us from being a blessing to others, even our enemies.
 4. Even with Jacob's flaws, he had been a blessing to the whole world because it is through Israel the nation that we were given the Lord Jesus Christ.
 5. Jacob is known as a father of the faith, he kept going during those difficult years because he knew that God loved him.