

## Jacob Wrestles with God

Sunday, June 14/20 – Genesis 32

*And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day... But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go unless you bless me'. And he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said 'Jacob'. Then he said, 'Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed'.*  
Genesis 32:24 – 27

*There are victories far worse than defeats; and to overcome an angel too gentle to put out all his strength, and ride away in triumph on the back of a devil, is one of the poorest.*

George MacDonald

*Each of us must ask what is necessary in our lives for us to see God face to face. What reality do we need to learn about ourselves... in order to stand before God and look Him in the face?*

John H. Walton

*The nature of Jacob's 'prevailing' with God was simply that he held on to God while God weakened him, and wrought in him the spirit of submission and self-distrust... till he came low enough for God to raise him up by speaking peace.*

J. I. Packer

### Sermon Outline:

1. Jacob's Plan: To Deal with his Past (32:1 – 8, 13 – 21)
2. Jacob's Prayer: To Acknowledge his God (32:9 – 12)
3. Jacob's Prevailing: To Lay Hold of his Blessing (32:22 – 26)
4. Jacob's Penial: To Walk in his Weakness (32:27 – 32)

### Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- What have you learned from this study of Jacob's life? How do you identify with him?
- What are the primary tools / instruments God uses to transform us into the image of Christ?
- Have you had a God-encounter like Peniel? How has it left you aware of your weakness?