

Dealing with Our Past

Whyte Ridge Baptist Church – Sunday, June 21/20 --- Genesis 33

And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him... But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.
Genesis 33:1, 4

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!
Psalm 25:7

God can bring peace to your past, purpose to your present, and hope to your future. – Anon

Sermon Outline:

Introduction: Three Kinds of Baggage:

- Sin
- Hurt
- Regret

1. Dealing with your Past before God

- When your Jabbok becomes a Peniel (32:22, 30)

2. Dealing with your Past within Yourself

- When your Jacob becomes an Israel (32:28)

3. Dealing with your Past with Significant Others

- When your Enemy becomes your Brother (33:1 – 11)

Conclusion: Still some work to be done... (33:14, 17)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. How did God lead Jacob to deal with his past sins, and what can we learn from him?
- ii. Has God put His finger on a part of your past that you need to deal with? What steps forward can you take by faith that would bring healing and peace?
- iii. Have you left room for God to surprise you as Jacob was surprised? What needs to happen in your heart for you to be open to this?