



Genesis 32:22-32 NLT-SE

“During the night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two servant wives, and his eleven sons and crossed the Jabbok River with them. After taking them to the other side, he sent over all his possessions.

This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until

the dawn began to break. When the man saw that he would not win the match, he touched Jacob’s hip and wrenched it out of its socket. Then the man said, “Let me go, for the dawn is breaking!”

But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

“What is your name?” the man asked. He replied, “Jacob.”

“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.”

“Please tell me your name,” Jacob said.

“Why do you want to know my name?” the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there.

Jacob named the place Peniel (which means “face of God”), for he said, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared.” The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip. (Even today the people of Israel don’t eat the tendon near the hip socket because of what happened that night when the man strained the tendon of Jacob’s hip.)”

Transformed by Trouble - April 5/6, 2014

When we are the author of our own troubles...

God meets us. (v. 24)

“This left Jacob all alone in the camp, and a man came and wrestled with him until the dawn began to break.”

God changes us. (v.28)

“Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.”

God humbles us. (vv.31-32)

“The sun was rising as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of the injury to his hip. (Even today the people of Israel don’t eat the tendon near the hip socket because of what happened that night when the man strained the tendon of Jacob’s hip.)”

And we become like Jesus.

Study Questions:

1. What happens to Jacob after he sends his family across the Jabbok River? With whom does he struggle that night? (cf., Hosea 12:3-5).
2. Jacob has struggled with men all his life—first with Esau and his father, and then with Laban. How has he also been struggling with God all those years? What is different about this time?
3. How does Jacob’s experience illustrate the spiritual relationship between troubles and transformation? (See 2Cor 4:16; Psalm 51:17-19.)
4. What is the significance of God giving Jacob a new name? (for the meaning of ‘Jacob’ see Gen 25:26 & 27:36).
5. Later in the story God is referred to as “the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau” (cf., Gen 35.1)? Why does God reveal himself this way? What do you think this signifies? Why do you think God reaffirmed the name change (cf., Gen 35:9-10)
6. God is in the business of giving people new names. Read the stories of Abram (Gen 17:3-8), Sarai (Gen 17:15-16), and Simon (John 1:4).
 - a. What is the significance of these name changes?
 - b. How does naming create a vision of destiny (cf., Lk 1:31-33).
 - c. What is your destiny in Christ? (cf., 1Peter 2:9-10; Eph 2:10; Jn 20:21)