

# A TURNING POINT FOR JACOB: Wounded and Broken

Genesis 32: 22-32, Matthew 16:13-19

# OUTLINE

1. Jacob was destined for spiritual greatness, but he was paradoxically a rascal. What about us?
2. Jacob's ugliness was rooted in insecurity and God transformed him by calling out strength from within him. How about us?
3. The transformation left Jacob wounded and broken, but with a new dependence on and intimacy with God. Why not us?

1. Jacob was destined for spiritual greatness, but he was paradoxically a rascal. What about us?

- What does this say about God?
  - Although God hates sin, He can still love the sinner
  - He is confident of turning lives around although they look to be so unpromising

1. Jacob was destined for spiritual greatness, but he was paradoxically a rascal. What about us?

- What does this say about us?
  - Although we may not be destined for spiritual greatness like Jacob was, we are destined for glory in the kingdom of God
  - Yet aren't we uncomfortably like Jacob to some extent, and therefore aren't we a living paradox?

2. Jacob's ugliness was rooted in insecurity and God transformed him by calling out strength from within him. How about us?

- Sin is often rooted in fear/ anxiety/ insecurity
- From young, he had the message drummed into him that his brother was strong while he was weak.
- What he lost out on in terms of physical prowess he made up for in cunning and craft.

2. Jacob's ugliness was rooted in insecurity and God transformed him by calling out strength from within him. How about us?

How did God transform him?

- By assuring him of His protection and provision
- By wrestling him and drawing out his strength and tenacity
- By changing his name and sense of identity from weakness to strength, from Jacob to Israel!

### 3. The transformation left Jacob wounded and broken, but with a new dependence on and intimacy with God. Why not us?

- Jacob's permanent disability daily reminded him of his encounter with God, and taught him to be gratefully dependent.
- The deviousness and manipulation are conspicuously absent from his life after the turning point.
- Story of Glenn Lim

# CONCLUSION

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