

Speaker: Associate Pastor Richard Yun

Title: The Struggle of Faith

Text: Genesis 32: 22-30

Introduction

We discover that life is one where we are constantly wrestling and struggling with one thing or another. Perhaps struggle is one of the hallmarks of life especially in a sin-fallen world.

In our text today, we find Jacob struggling with God mightily in a wrestling match that lasted the entire night.

1. Jacob's Wrestling

- Jacob is on an exodus journey.
- Jacob fears what is ahead. By temptation and trickery, he had taken the inheritance and blessing that belonged to Esau, his brother.
- Then Jacob received the news that his brother is coming to meet him.
- He assembles and organizes his family and his herds and sends them ahead.
- Night comes and Jacob is restless and alone.

2. Jacob's Blessings

- Suddenly a Man appears. And they wrestled with each other until day break.
- Finally Jacob recognizes that the blessings from God are obtained not by human wits and strength but from the hand of God Himself.
- Then the Word of the Lord came to the man whose name mean "supplanter", "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob but Israel, for you have struggle with God and with men, and have prevailed".

Why did God inflict a painful injury that dogged Jacob for the rest of his life?

Four reasons:

1. So that Jacob's sin could be forgiven.
2. So that Jacob's guilt could be taken away.
3. So that Jacob's servile fear could be replaced by godly fear
4. So that by God's grace, Jacob could hobble into the Promised Land.

3. Our Wrestling and the Blessings

- The struggle of Jacob is our own. We all have the name and nature of Jacob. We all have the tendency to wrestle, to take things in our own hands, and work things out in our own strength.
- The result? The result is much the same. We make a mess of things which drives us to the banks of our own Jabbok.
- Family problems, financial struggles, relational problem, no purpose, no sense of destiny.
- Our wrestling drives us to the end of ourselves and hopefully into the arms of God.
- We must stop wrestling and start clinging with a tenacious faith!
- We must surrender our lives, our wills, our dreams and schemes to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and let Him change us.

Conclusion

Christ has come to struggle and wrestle with all things that would condemn us and He prevailed against them.

The blessing in the struggle of faith is that in Jesus Christ, we can have a new name, a new nature, a new destiny and a secure future.