

Genesis 31-32

December 17, 2017 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro - God loves you just the way you are, but He won't leave you just the way you are.

Visitor #1 - Laban

Genesis 31:38-42 - "For twenty years I've been with you, caring for your flocks. In all that time your sheep and goats never miscarried. In all those years I never used a single ram of yours for food. If any were attacked and killed by wild animals, I never showed you the carcass and asked you to reduce the count of your flock. No, I took the loss myself! *You made me pay for every stolen animal*, whether it was taken in broad daylight or in the dark of night. I worked for you through the scorching heat of the day and through cold and sleepless nights. For twenty years I slaved in your house! I worked for fourteen years earning your two daughters, and then six more years for your flock. And *you changed my wages ten times!* In fact, if the God of my father hadn't been with me... *you would've sent me away empty-handed.*"

"God is such a great Teacher that when you don't learn a lesson, He will repeat it."

Gen. 31:42 - "If the *God of my father hadn't been with me...* you would've sent me away empty-handed. But God has seen my hardship... and last night He rebuked you."

Genesis 31-32

December 17, 2017 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Visitor #2 - Esau

Matthew 5:23-25 - "If you're offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Reconcile quickly with your adversary."

Romans 12:18 - If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Gen. 27:41 - Esau hated Jacob... and said to himself, "I'll soon be mourning my father's death. Then I'll kill my brother, Jacob."

1. Jacob bases his prayer on God's Word

2. In his prayer, Jacob shows thankfulness and humility

v.10 - "I'm not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You've shown your servant."

3. Jacob is specific and heartfelt in his prayer

Genesis 31-32

December 17, 2017 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Visitor #3 - God

Read v.22-26

Put yourself in Jacob's shoes:

- **It's late at night**
- **You're all alone**
- **Your brother who had threatened to kill you is on his way with 400 men**
- **And suddenly a hand grabs you!**
- **You wrestle with this unknown assailant for hours**
- **Just when you think you're winning, he touches your hip...**
- **You think: This isn't an ordinary man. This isn't a man at all.**
- **All you can do now is hold on**
- **He says, "Let go!"**
- **You say, "I can't. I won't--not until You bless me."**

Hosea 12:3-4 - As a man Jacob *struggled with God*. He wrestled with the Angel and prevailed; *he wept and begged His favor*.

Gen. 27:36 - "Isn't he rightly named *Jacob*? For he has *cheated* me these two times."
