

**Series: Champion of God**

**Title: Jacob: The Champion of Brokenness**

**Text: (Heb 11:21)** *“leaning upon the top of his staff”*  
*“He’s still working on me”* - (Rom 8:28-29)

(Heb 13:20a &21)

(Jer 29:11) *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

***God has a plan for you.***

God loves you the way you are.

God loves you too much to leave you the way you are

***Jacob’s name ~ Cheat, Con Artist.***

He stole the Birthright (Gen 25:23-34)

He stole the Blessing (Gen 27:28-29; Gen 28:3-4)

Esau was bent on killing him.

Jacob could not have expected things to have changed

***Jacob has been with Laban 20years.***

Jacob has had to have some of his own medicine.

Laban had manipulated Jacob: (Gen 31:41)

Laban tricked him into marrying Leah 1st.

Laban made him serve an addition 7 years for Rachel.

(Gen 31:42) God had protected Jacob.

(Gen 31:38-40) But God made Jacob work for it:

**I. God will Always Protect You, but He will Not Pamper You:** (Gen 32:1-3)

***God lets Jacob in on a Secret!*** (Gen 32:1-2)

20yrs angels have been there to protecting him.

*Mahanaim*= 2 hosts, his people & God’s Angels.

He is not right with God.

He is not right with his brother, & uncle.

God has been protecting him: not his schemes.

***God reminded me to praise Him for the Angels.***

*“ministering spirits”*

***God will protect you, but He will not Pamper you!***

God lets Jacob stew in his own soup!

***Esau is coming with 400 armed Men!*** (Gen 32:6)

Could God have stopped Esau? YES (Gen 31:24)

God could have stopped Esau, but instead He orchestrated it.

***God wants Jacob to come to the end of himself.***

***Jacob Tries Flattery:*** (Gen 32:3-5)

*“my lord, Esau”*

***Jacob Tries Strategy:*** (Gen 32:6-8)

He is trying to cut his losses.

Jacob Splits into 2 groups.

***Jacob Tries Prayer:*** (Gen 32:9-12)

He is quoting the promises of God.

Jacob tries Prayer as a Last Resort.

*Illus: Met at a travel agency, He was the Last Resort!*

***Jacob Tries to Appease:***

(Gen 32:13-15) 580 animals to give Esau as a present.

(Gen 32:16-20) He divides them into 5 groups.

*“Lord, I trust you, but...”*

**Will Protect you, but He will never Pamper you!**

God lets Jacob stew in his own soup some more!

(Gen 32:21)

He is laying down with his family, but he can't sleep.

Jacob sees the angels, He knows they are there.

But they are not gathering for battle.

They are not doing anything!

***Jacob tries to appeal to Esau's Humanity:***

(Gen 32:22-23) Maybe he'll take pity on the children?

**II. God will Hurt, but He will Not Harm You:**

(Gen 32:24) God engineered Jacob to be left alone.

Our flesh does not want to be left alone with God.

Because we cannot Look God in the Face.

*If David had an Ipod, we would not have the Ps 23.*

This is why people don't want to read their bibles.  
They are happy to read a phrase out of a devotional.  
But if sit down with an open bible, you are looking  
God in the eye!

***Jacob has a confrontation with God!*** (Gen 32:24b)

Jacob has done all his flattery, strategy, appeasing.

Alone in the dark, God pounces on him!

Jacob is in a wrestling match with Jesus!

Christophany! Pre-Incarnate Jesus. (vs 30)

**Really? A mortal man, wrestles with God!**

(Gen 32:25) *I hate to do it to you Jacob!*

(Gen 32:26) *God said this, b/c he didn't want Jacob to let go!*

***The 2 on the road to Emmaus.***

(Lk 24:28-29) *he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him.*

***The Syrophenician Women: Dogs get the crumbs.***

***God wants us to Pursue Him with all our heart!***

***Jacob comes to the end of himself:***

God takes away Jacob's Plan B: RUN AWAY!

(Gen 32:27) *Jacob realizes who he has ahold of!*

Jacob realizes his only hope is God.

Not his Scheming but his Surrendering.

Not his Bargaining, but his Begging.

***God Hurt him, but God did not Harm him.***

God loves you 2 much to leave you in your rebellion.  
God loves you 2 much to leave you in a state where  
He cannot bless you.

***God will Protect you, but He will never Pamper you!  
God will Hurt, but He will Not Harm You!***

I had a Dad who would apply the Board of Education  
to the Seat of Knowledge! (Heb 12:9-10)  
He hurt me, but he did not Harm me!

I had a Dr. who took a Knife & CUT ME!  
Kidney blockage!  
He hurt me, but he did not Harm me!

***God will protect you, He never takes His eye off you,  
but He will Not Pamper you! or Coddle you!***

***God will Hurt you, but He will never Harm you!***  
(Heb 12:11) *Now no chastening for the present  
seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless  
afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of  
righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

**III. God Will Break You so He can Bless You:**

(Gen 32:27) *“What is they name”*

Didn't God KNOW who he was? YES  
God wanted Jacob to Admit it!

***“What is they name?”***

Jacob means supplanter, Conniver, Con Artist.

***If God were to ask you today, “What is they name”?  
Lazy, Liar, Thief, Pornographer, Adulterer, Drunkard!***

***God had to break him so he could bless him!***  
(1 Cor 11:31) *if we would judge ourselves, we should  
not be judged.*

***God likes broken things!***  
*Men throw broken things away.  
God never really uses Something or Someone until  
they are broken.*

***The Lads Lunch: 5 Loaves/2 Fishes: Brake/Blessed  
The Lord's Supper: He broke it/Blessed it.  
God likes broken things!***

**IV. God Will Cripple You So He Can Crown You:**

*What is your name? Jacob, Cheat, Con Artist.*

God is making Jacob confess it!

(Gen 32:28) *Thy name shall be called no more Jacob,  
but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God  
and with men, and hast prevailed.*

Changed his name from Jacob to Israel

*(A Prince that has prevailed with God)*

From a Name of Shame to the Hall of Fame!

***God Will Cripple You So He Can Crown You:***  
(Rev 5:10) *And hast made us unto our God kings and  
priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

***God Crippled Him so He could Change His Character!*** (Gen 32:31) *And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.*

Character is how we treat someone who can do nothing for us.

Character is how we act when no one is looking.  
Everything in life is a test of character.

Reputation is what men think you are, your character is what God knows you are.

The actions of men form an infallible index of their character.

Good character is the best tombstone.

(Gen 33:3) *And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.*

He couldn't run.  
He couldn't hide behind his wives skirt anymore.  
He had to face his past mistakes, & make it right.

Jacob was stronger as a cripple, leaning upon his staff than he ever was with both legs working.

***Failure does not have to be final.***

Save yourself a wrestling match & surrender to God!

If there is suffering in your life, let it teach you!

When it is all done, its your worship by faith that really matters.

(Heb 11:21) *Worshipped, leaning upon his staff.*  
147 yrs old when he died.  
He was Weak & Weary,  
But he spent his last days Worshipping God.

***Are you wrestling with God, I am praying you will lose!*** There is NO FUTURE in Wrestling with God.

***None of this applies to you today if you are lost!***  
You need to lose the Argument in your heart!  
State your name for the record!  
I am a SINNER, Hell Bound, W/O Hope.

(Matt 21:44) *And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: (Fall on Jesus)*

*but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.*

Hell is the only future for those wrestling with God over Salvation.

(Ps 51:17) *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*