

Old Testament Men and Women of Faith
Jacob and Esau Reunite, Vengeance for Dinah, Jacob becomes Israel

1. Genesis 32: Preparing for the encounter with Esau. Jacob knew he was in the right with Laban, but he knew he was in the wrong with Esau. Shakespeare was right when he wrote, "Conscience does make cowards of us all."
 - Jacob is finally free from Laban – angels in the camp.
 - Jacob's prayer – Verses 9-12 – included the Word and promise of God
 - Jacob prepares to meet his brother Esau – "So Jacob's gifts went on ahead of him, but he himself spent the night in the camp."
 - Jacob's wrestling match – verses 23-32. Strange story – name changed to Israel. The name Israel is a compound of two words: *sarah* (meaning, "fight," "struggle," or "rule") and *el* (meaning, "God"). Israel means, "He struggles with God."
 - Jacob is humbled. Who is "the Man?" Some have suggested that this was Jesus.

 2. Genesis 33: Jacob meets Esau
 - "Rachel and Joseph in the rear" – farthest from the danger.
 - Verses 3-12: All of Jacob's plans and preparations pale in the light of Esau's joy at his arrival. The past was forgotten.
 - Verses 13-17: the parting of the ways. Jacob did not want to be too close to Esau. He forgave me, but... Shakespeare was right when he wrote, "Conscience does make cowards of us all."
 - Jacob settles in Shechem and buys some property – Verses 18-20. This is where Joseph would be buried after the return from Egypt – Joshua 24:32: "And Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem."
 - "Jacob's well" – John 4:3 – Jesus and the woman of Samaria -Nablus
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3. Genesis 34: Dinah and the Shechemites
 - This chapter contains one of the most shameful incidents in Israel's history. I doubt whether anyone ever preached a sermon on this chapter.
 - Verse 30: Jacob's response...

 4. Genesis 35: Jacob at Bethel...
 - Jacobs returns to Bethel and rededicates himself and his family.
 - Verses 10-15: the Covenant re-established.
 - The death of Isaac and Rachel and the birth of Benjamin. Rachel buried in Bethlehem.
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5. Genesis 36: the Genealogy of Esau – intermarried with Canaanite women.

Next time: Joseph and his Jealous Brothers