

April 3, 2011

# Reunited, And It Feels So Good

## Genesis 33

<sup>1</sup>And Jacob lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two female servants. <sup>2</sup>And he put the servants with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. <sup>3</sup>He himself went on before them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

1-3 After his wrestling match with God, how does Jacob now act with Esau approaching?  
“bowing... 7 times”- a servant’s act of respect for his master, shows repentance as well

<sup>4</sup>But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. <sup>5</sup>And when Esau lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." <sup>6</sup>Then the servants drew near, they and their children, and bowed down. <sup>7</sup>Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down. And last Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. <sup>8</sup>Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find grace in the sight of my lord." <sup>9</sup>But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." <sup>10</sup>Jacob said, "No, please, if I have found grace in your sight, then accept my present from my hand. For I have seen your face, which is like seeing the face of God, and you have accepted me. <sup>11</sup>Please accept my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." Thus he urged him, and he took it.

4 “Esau ran to meet him”- not something lords do... reminds us of Luke 15:11-32 “Prodigal Son”  
5 “The children God has graciously given your servant”- even now after knowing Esau does not come to kill him, Jacob is still humble and repentant.  
8 “What do you mean by all this company?”- the flocks of presents meant to appease Esau  
10 “seen your face,... like seeing the face of God”- Jacob would know! Mercy and forgiveness from our brothers whom we have wronged is very important!

*Luther: But God’s winsome face must be recognized in His promises, in the sacraments, and likewise in external blessings and gifts, in a gracious prince, a neighbor, a father, and a mother. When I see that the face of my parents is gracious, I see at the same time the winsome face of God smiling at me. As Jacob had previously said that he had seen the Lord face to face, he now discerns the same face of GOD in the face of his brother Esau, for he sees the good pleasure of God’s will in the goodwill and favor of his brother.*

<sup>12</sup>Then Esau said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go ahead of you." <sup>13</sup>But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail, and that the nursing flocks and herds are a care to me. If they are driven hard for one day, all the flocks will die. <sup>14</sup>Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, at the pace of the livestock that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir."

12 “I will go ahead of you”- the word indicates close proximity, could be “along with” you  
13 “Children are frail”- The oldest, Reuben, was probably around 13  
14 “until I come to my lord in Seir”- If Jacob ever does visit Seir, Genesis does not record it

<sup>15</sup>So Esau said, "Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find *grace* in the sight of my lord." <sup>16</sup>So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. <sup>17</sup>But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

17 Why Jacob did not follow Esau is unclear

Succoth- in Hebrew means "booths," located along the Jabbok and Jordan rivers MAP

<sup>18</sup>And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. <sup>19</sup>And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. <sup>20</sup>There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

18 Shechem, in the land of Canaan- remember that Canaan is cursed from Genesis 9

19 "erected an altar"- common occurrence in Genesis- likely is more than just an altar, think chapel  
El-Elohe-Israel- translates to "God, the God of Israel"- Jacob is using his new name!

Psalm 133

**ALL: <sup>1</sup>Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!**

N: <sup>2</sup>It is like the precious oil on the head,

S: running down on the beard,

N: on the beard of Aaron,

S: running down on the collar of his robes!

N: <sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon,

S: which falls on the mountains of Zion!

**ALL: For there YHWH has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**And to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was in the beginning**

**Is now and will be forever. Amen.**

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



**AN UNEXPECTED 'HAPPY' FAMILY REUNION**

The last time Jacob saw his brother Esau back in **Genesis 27**, Esau was still very sore over the whole stolen ( or was it misplaced? ) birthright. **Genesis 33**