

The Birth of a Nation

A Study in Genesis 25-36

A Happy Reunion
Genesis 33:1-20
April 18, 2021

But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. - **Genesis 33:4**

I. PRECAUTION AND SUBMISSION

- As Esau approaches with his men, Jacob makes one, final attempt to spare his family (Vss. 1-2).
- As a final gesture prior to confronting Esau, Jacob demonstrates complete submission to his brother (Vs. 3).

II. AN UNEXPECTED GREETING

- Jacob's fears, although understandable, prove to be unfounded. Esau lovingly reunites with his twin brother (Vs. 4; Gen. 27:41-42).
- Esau had significant character flaws, yet he was capable of demonstrating great love and loyalty. In some ways, his character proves to be more noble than that of Jacob (Gen. 25:32, 27:41-42, 28:6; Heb. 12:15-17).
- Whether intentionally or not, Jacob does not follow his brother to Seir. He is a different man, but it may be that his deceitful nature remains (cf. vss. 14 & 17).
- Esau's response to Jacob is apparently the model for Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:20-24).

III. THE MINISTRY OF FORGIVENESS

- There is really no other way to say it: forgiveness is a beautiful thing (Psalm 32).
- Our sin is real. God's forgiveness is even more real—and abundant (Ps. 130; Isa. 1:18; Rom 5:18-21).
- With God, it is not merely forgiveness, it is true justice (Rom. 8).

KNOW: Our God is a God of mercy and forgiveness. Esau's response to his brother is but a dim picture of this reality.

DO: Embrace the forgiveness of God.

Suggested Reading:

The Savage My Kinsman by Elisabeth Elliot (LifePoint Library #266.282)

A Gospel Primer for Christians by Milton Vincent (LifePoint Library #248.4 VIN).

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 33:1-20

1. After reading this account, what feelings are evoked in you?
2. How does Jacob's lineup of his family behind him as he approaches Esau tell you about his feelings for them? What do you think about this?
3. Talk about Esau's greeting toward his brother. What stands out to you about this encounter?
4. What is it about forgiveness that is so good to receive, yet so hard to give?
5. Talk a bit about God's forgiveness. How does his forgiveness work?
6. What application do you take away from Sunday's message/passage?