

HOW GOD SEPARATED JACOB

TEXT: Gen.33 *(Of course the best way to study the Bible is with the Bible! (Duh!) Start by reading the text and then read each verse as you progress through the study,*

INTRO.: A. In our study of this remarkable man Jacob, we have seen God **SAVING** him, God **SUBDUING** him & now we will see God **SEPARATING** him. The story is in two parts: Jacob & his brother in ch.33 & Jacob & his backsliding in **ch. 34**.

B. Jacob was a broken man after his encounter w/God. He had passed another great milestone in his life. When we first met Jacob we found him **LYING**. Then when God first appeared to him we find him **LISTENING**. During those many years w/Laban he was **LEARNING** - verrrry slowly! Now we find him **LIMPING**...a broken man, a blessed man, a man w/a new name & a new nature now in control.

I. HOW GOD SEPARATED JACOB:

A. How Esau Found Jacob **v.1-3**

NOTE: Esau was ready for any new hostility w/his twin brother Jacob. He had 400 men armed to the teeth. Esau knew nothing of Jacob's changed heart. Esau knew nothing of Jacob's angelic escort. If he had any more tricks up his sleeve, he was ready!

1. A Cautious Jacob: **v.1,2**

- a. He put the more expendable part of his family up front.
- b. He would give his beloved Rachel & Joseph the best chance.

NOTE: This blatant favoritism surely only fanned the flames of hostility between Joseph & his brothers. Stay tuned...

- c. Jacob is scheming again...even the regenerated heart has an inveterate mistrust of God!

2. A Courageous Jacob: **v.3a**

- a. Jacob is no coward. He places himself in the greatest danger.

ILLUS.: All Israeli troops must take commando or paratrooper training. The words: **"Forward march!"** have been replaced with **"Follow me!"** Officers must be willing to place themselves in the forefront of the battle. *(Like the Nazi General Erwin Rommel and the American General George S. Patton, in WWII. Both great generals. They never asked their men to do anything they were unwilling to do themselves.)*

3. A Contrite Jacob: **v.3b**

ILLUS.: The scene: Jacob's wives, children, flocks, herds, shepherds, etc. vs. Esau & his army of 400 troops...all eyes on Jacob...bowing & scraping.

B. How Esau Forgave Jacob: **v.4-7**

1. Esau's act is a great commentary on the reconciliation of brethren.
2. Jacob's spirit of humiliation disarmed Esau & he forgave Jacob fully freely & forever. (His descendants did not share this spirit.)
 - a. It was an emotional scene.
 - b. Their tears mingled & said what words could not & washed away all the past bitterness.

NOTE: What a fine man Esau was...generous, likeable, noble, yet lost! A believer is not different in degree to an unsaved man, he is different in kind...as a diamond is different in kind from a carrot. The diamond is polished, but dead. The carrot is crude but alive.

C. How Esau Favored Jacob: **v.8-11**

1. Esau refuses the trespass offering of his brother. **v.8,9**
2. Then Esau receives the gift when he sees his brother's sincerity. **v.10,11**

D. How Esau Frightened Jacob: **v.12-16**

1. Esau offers Jacob the company of his presence. **v. 12-14**
2. That frightened Jacob because he had learned the problems of an un-equal yoke.

NOTE: Jacob w/his vast, slow moving herds could not be sensibly be yoked to Esau w/his 400 mounted cavalry.

An unequal yoke never makes sense, in business, marriage, friendships, etc. We must be friendly to the lost, but never fettered to them.

3. Next Esau offers Jacob the strength of his protection. **v.15,16**
4. Again Jacob declines w/a half-hearted promise to visit Esau in the future.

TRANS.: We have looked at Jacob & His Brother, now we will examine Jacob & His Backsliding:

E. Jacob's Failure as a Pilgrim: **v.17-20**

NOTE: The patriarchs were all wealthy men but w/Abraham, Isaac & Jacob (up until this point) their pilgrim character was never lost. First we see Jacob going to Succoth & there we see...

1. Jacob Building: **v.17**

NOTE: The 1st mention of a house in the Bible is in connection w/Lot. Abraham the pilgrim dwelt in a tent on the plains of Mamre; Lot the backslider dwelt in a house in Sodom. Jacob decided to be like everybody else & build a house & settle down in the world short of Canaan.

2. Jacob Buying: **v.18-20**

NOTE: Now Jacob moves to Shechem. Dinah had grown up in Succoth & was now a young woman. He now **"pitches his tent toward the city"...**a reluctant pilgrim again.

- a. Jacob purchased for cash that which God had promised him by faith
- b. Jacob would soon find out what a mistake it is to ignore God's demand for complete separation. (*"Father knows best!"*)

F. Jacob's Failure as A Parent: **v. 34:1-31**

1. The scandal caused by Dinah's behavior: **v.1-7**

NOTE: Here was a sheltered, country girl tempted by the brite lites of the city.

- a. Dinah was seen: **v.1-2a**

QUES.: Where was mom & dad?!

- b. Dinah was seduced: **v.2b**
- c. Dinah was sought: **v.3-7**

2. The scandal caused by Dinah's brothers: **v.8-31**

- a. Marriage negotiations were started...

- 1) Worldly society offered: **"make ye marriages w/us..." v.9**

- 2) Worldly security offered: ***"dwell w/us..." v.10***
- 3) Worldly success offered: ***"the land shall be before you...dwell & trade ye therein & get you possessions" therein v.10***
- 4) Worldly sincerity offered: ***"I will give according as ye shall say..." v.11,12***

b. Deceitful proposals made...

- 1) The subtle dishonesty of Dinah's brothers: **v.13-17**

NOTE: The sign of the Covenant was only for believers. It was of divine origin & not to be used as a bargaining chip. God's Covenant is thus abused by these boys.

- 2) The simpler dishonesty of Shechem's father: **v.18-24**

NOTE: To get the whole city to submit to the painful ordeal of circumcision would take a real sales pitch. Note v.23 ***"We will get their possessions & they will become one with us."***

c. Dreadful crimes committed... **v.25-29**

- 1) The crime of mass murder. **v.25**
- 2) The crime of death w/out a trial. **v.26**
- 3) The crime of spoiling the city. **v.27-28**
- 4) The crime of kidnapping the women. **v.29**

d. Condemnation of the plot: **v.30-31**