

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 21, 2024

God's Way To Shape



In the movie "The Hiding Place," a scene is set at Ravensbruck Concentration Camp in Germany. Corrie Ten Boom and her sister, Betsy, are there, along with ten thousand other women, in horrible, degrading, hideous conditions. They are gathered with some women in the barracks in the midst of the beds, cold, hungry, and lice-ridden; Betsy is leading a Bible class. Orieof, the other woman, calls out derisively from her bunk and mocks their worship of God. They fall into conversation, and this woman says what so frequently is flung at Christians: "If your God is such a good God, why does He allow this kind of suffering?" Dramatically, she removes the bandages and old rags that bind her hands, displaying her broken, mangled fingers, and says, "I'm the first violinist of the symphony orchestra. Did your God will this?" For a moment, no one answers. Then Corrie Ten Boom steps to her sister's side and says, "We can't answer that question. All we know is that our God came to this earth and became one of us, and He suffered with us and was crucified and died. And that He did it for love."

Someone once said, "A Christian is like a tea bag that is not much good until it has gone through hot water." When we are mistreated for doing nothing wrong, the quality of our character is either exposed or shaped (Romans 5:1-5).

God states in the book of Job that Job is righteous; but amid Job's trials, we truly learn about Job's character and disposition. The same thing occurs with Joseph, who suffered for doing no wrong. We admire Joseph more for how he endured his trials than when he was the young dreamer his father loved—the same with Daniel. We may admire Daniel for his prayer life, but we admired his commitment to prayer more when he prayed, knowing he would experience persecution. Daniel's Lion's Den experience is repeated more than his dreams. This is because, during hard times, God either shapes our character or exposes the quality of the character Christ has developed in us to those around us. Peter says that we are blessed when we suffer for doing good (1 Peter 3:13-14).

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." (Rom 8:18-19; NASU)

When the storms of life are raging (Matthew 14:22-27), keep your eyes on the prize (Philippians 3:12-16).

UPCOMING Events

WEST INDIES BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE JULY 22ND-26TH
Join us for Christian leadership classes with the West Indies Baptist Fellowship Conference during the daytime 8 a.m. — 12:15 p.m. and evening sessions 7—9 p.m. Sign up for the daytime classes at <https://bit.ly/4bVZdc5> Lunch not provided.

FAMILY BIBLE ENCOUNTER JULY 22ND—26TH
Our Family Bible Encounter Vacation Bible School will be July 22nd—26th each night 6:30—8:30 p.m. Snacks provided starting at 5:45 p.m. Register at <https://bit.ly/4a3VY0B>
For More Information contact Sylvia Edwards at sedwards@lwfellowshipchurch.org

FREE GOOGLE SUITE/LWFC FORMS WORKSHOP—JULY 27TH 10 AM—2 PM
Living Word come, invite a friend, and learn everything that comes FREE with a gmail account. We will also go over all forms available on the LWFC Website. Register at <https://bit.ly/3KIHG3> and for more information contact Shani Smothers at shani.smothers@lwfellowshipchurch.org

CPR TRAINING—AUGUST 24TH 9AM—12 PM
Have you ever wanted to be CPR certified? We have a CPR certification course coming up August 24, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Must register by August 11, 2024. Cost is \$65 per person. Receive CPR, AED, and First Aid Certification. To register, contact Lulu Hayes for more information on Sundays after service or at luluhayes1@gmail.com

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH—DONATE BACKPACKS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES & HAIR ACCESSORIES
Living Word Family, it's almost time for the Back To School Bash on August 10th. Please donate Backpacks, School Supplies And Girls Hair Accessories. Bins are located in the foyer and the Children's Wing. For more information, visit the Events Page of The Website or call the Church at (281) 260-7402.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Don't Get Ahead"

Genesis 25:21-23; 27:35-41; 32:3-23; 33:1-11

Dr. Pierre Cannings

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade



MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY 7:30 PM

Don't Get Ahead

Genesis 25:21-23; 27:35-41; 32:3-23; 33:1-11

I. Promise (Genesis 25)

- A. Rebekah was barren (21)
 - a. God supernaturally provided a son for **Isaac**. Like Sarah, **Rebekah** was **barren** (v. 21) even though God promised that nations would stem from Abraham! In contrast with Abraham (16:1–4), Isaac **prayed**, and God responded.
 - b. God promised nations from Abraham
- B. God supernatural provided twins
 - a. They struggled inside her (22)
 - i. His supernatural work. God later gave Israel, His elect nation, the promise. But it would not come without Israel's struggle.
 - ii. She Inquired of the Lord (22)
 - iii. Two nations in her womb (23)
 - 1. One people shall be stronger; Older serving younger ; God reversed the natural order of blessing
 - 2. God's fulfillment of His promise to Abraham was carried out by His election of Jacob (later, the nation Israel). At the same time, on the human side, prayer was necessary (v. 21).
- C. Trying to Get Ahead- Genesis 27
 - a. Rebekah and Jacob Deceive ; Esau sold birthright ; Jacob deceived Isaac v.35 ; Esau bore a grudge v.41

II. Out Strategize (Genesis 32:1–21)

- A. Jacob's Fear of Esau—Refers to Him as lord (4)
 - a. Jacob's opening words thus hint at his fearfulness and guilty conscience,
 - b. The list of Jacob's acquisitions resembles 12:16; 30:43. He is not boasting but seeking to impress his brother, "in order to find favor with you."
- B. Defensive Efforts—With an Escape plan for one camp (7–8)
 - a. But fear does not paralyze Jacob; he acts decisively in an attempt at least to salvage something should Esau attack. Splitting his party into two camps may at least allow the rear one to escape. But the mention of two camps recalls the place he has just been to, "Mahanaim," lit "two camps" (32:2–3 [1–2]).
- C. Calls to the Lord (9–12)
- D. Sends Gifts (13)
 - a. It could be that Jacob was, through this gesture, declaring himself Esau's vassal (cf. 2 Kgs 17:3; Hos 10:6; so Jacob), or even that he was symbolically returning the blessing he had stolen from Esau (cf. 33:11; cf. Josh 15:19; Judg 1:15). But whatever the symbolism, Jacob's motive was quite clear: "to mollify him.... Perhaps he will accept me" (v 21).
 - b. V.20 The sacrificial overtones of "mollify" and "accept" have already been noted. Their exact meaning in sacrificial texts has been much discussed and is not of great moment here. Probably "mollify" (piel of מָלַף is related to the noun "ransom" from the same root. In OT law, some capital crimes could be commuted by payment of a ransom

III. Promise Remains (Genesis 33:1-18)

- A. Bowed seven times
 - a. Sevenfold bowing was the proper act of respect of a vassal to his overlord, as the Amarna letters
 - b. In bowing down before his brother, Jacob is doing more than acknowledging Esau's lordship; he is trying to undo the great act of deception whereby he cheated Esau of his blessing. Throughout this scene, he insists on making presents to Esau in an attempt to return to him the blessing (cf. 33:11) that should have been his.
 - c. Esau ran, embraced, fell on his neck, kissed, and wept. (4)
 - d. Jacob insisted on finding favor with goods (5–11)
 - i. But it may also well be that he wants to avoid any reference to that unhappy day when he cheated Esau out of his blessing. By word and gesture, prostrating himself and giving gifts, he is trying to undo his sins of many years earlier.



Family Bible Encounter 2024

July 22th-26th

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Snack served at 5:45 p.m.







Register at <https://bit.ly/4a3VY0B>

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

62nd Annual West Indies Baptist

FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE 2024

JOIN US JULY 22-26

SIGN UP FOR CLASSES



DAYTIME CLASSES 8 AM - 12:15 PM & NIGHT TIME SESSIONS 7:00-9:00 PM
OPPORTUNITY TO EVANGELIZE & FELLOWSHIP WITH BROTHERS & SISTERS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD

CONFERENCE IS FREE TO ATTEND DAILY FOR MEMBERS, LUNCH/FOOD IS NOT PROVIDED

For more information on attending the WIBFC or how to volunteer please contact Living Word Fellowship Church Administration at (281) 260-7402.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Mignette Dorsey & family, Deidra McKoy & family, and the family of Lee White.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Joyce Denman, and Diana Doyle.

DON'T GET AHEAD

GENESIS 25:21-23; 27:35-41; 32:3-23; 33:1-11

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