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IS YOUR CHILD A CHOSEN ONE?

To the Hebrews,
CHILDREN were considered "GIFTS from GOD"
and it was a great honor to bear and raise children.

Jesus clearly expressed
His love and respect for children:

Mark 9:36-37

{36} And taking a child, He set him before them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them,

{37} "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me."

He used the innocence and openness of children
to illustrate the attitude necessary
for entering the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 18:2-3

{2} And He called a child to Himself and set him before them,

{3} and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Every time god gets ready
to accomplish some great thing:**

HE HAS A BABY BORN !

**GOD has His hand on these special ones
and although we may not chose this one or that one:**

**God will prevail and bless and provide for
that special baby all the days of his life**

HAS GOD CHOSEN YOUR CHILD ?

DO YOU KNOW ?

HAVE YOU ASKED or EVEN OFFERED?

**In honor of your children and God's gift,
not only to the birth parents;
but to all who share
in the teaching and raising of children,**

the title of the message today is:

IS YOUR CHILD A CHOSEN ONE?

**In every case, there are signs that abound
telling us that "THIS BABY
IS BEING CALLED OUT FOR SPECIAL WORK !**

**But, GOD, has different valves from us
and we do not always see those signs as strength

we may even look upon some of those signs
as weakness'.**

When Isaac and Rebekah were blessed with twin sons:

- 1. Esau was first born
and thus the greatest honor was reserved for him**
- 2. But, Jacob was born holding his hand
onto the heel of Esau**

**And according to accounts in Genesis,
Jacob continued to
"take hold of" the possessions of others:**

- a. Esau's birthright**
- b. His father's blessing**
- c. His father-in-law's flocks and herds.**

**Jacob was a deceiver and wandered far from home
because of his scheming and for his safety.**

**This was not one
that we would pick for one of God's great leaders:**

**But God's hand was on him
and nothing would change that !**

**The story of Jacob
illustrates for us the conflict between:**

**the flesh and the Spirit
the old life and the new life:**

In [Genesis Chapter 32](#):

**Esau,
the twin brother that Jacob had cheated was coming,
and Jacob was about to meet up with his forgotten past.**

A. Would Esau forgive him or fight him ?

B. Would Jacob lose everything he had schemed for

How tragic it is when the past catches up with a man !

**Running away can't erase it;
nor can 20 years of history.**

But before Jacob met Esau,
he experienced three other meetings:

1. HE MET GOD'S ANGELS [32:1-20](#)

He had first seen these angels at Bethel (ch. 28),
known as Jacob's Ladder
(an army of protecting angels
ascending and descending heaven)

and they should have been a reminder
that God was in control;

but, he failed to put his faith in God,
who promised 20 yrs. ago to protect him.

Jacob started trusting his own schemes again
and tried to appease Esau with gifts

and in vs. 7 divides his company into two bands
in case of a battle
and ignored the protecting army of angels;

only after taking these steps
did he ask for God's help !

**HOW MANY OF YOU
WANT GOD TO LEAD YOUR CHILDREN;
BUT, WAIT TILL YOUR LEADERSHIP HAS FAILED
BEFORE YOU ASK FOR GODS HELP?**

2. HE MET THE LORD (32:21-26)

**It's when a man gets alone with God
that things begin to happen.**

**Christ came to wrestle with Jacob,
and the battle lasted all night.**

**Remember that Jacob was
not wrestling to get a blessing from God;
he was defending himself and refusing to yield.**

**God was trying to break Jacob
to get him to repent and say:**

"Not I, but, Christ".

**All night long Jacob refused to surrender
or even admit that he had sinned.**

**Then God weakened Jacob
and the wrestler could only cling !**

**Now ... instead of scheming for a blessing
or bargaining for a blessing,
he asked God for the blessing ... and he received it !**

**Has stubborn pride ever kept you
from receiving a blessing from God ?**

**Do you think that
your children's blessings from God
have anything to do with your humbling yourself
to the point of being able to ask God for a blessing.**

3. HE MET HIMSELF (32:27-32)

**A. A man does not truly see himself
until first he sees the LORD.**

**B. "What is thy name?"
was the question that forced Jacob
to confess his true self "Jacob, the schemer"**

**C. Once he faced himself and confessed his sin,
Jacob could be changed.**

**God even gave him a new name:
"ISRAEL" (Prince with God)**

**D. The way to have POWER with GOD
is to be broken by GOD.**

**Notice in [vs. 31](#)
that Jacob now limped out to meet Esau.**

How many of us are defeated

**Because we don't confess our sin
and place our entire family in danger of God's wrath.**

**Jacob had to be called back to Bethel
because he was "BACKSLIDDEN".**

**There is nothing more a man can do;
but, to go back to the place of dedication
and renew his vows

when he needs to put GOD back into his life.**

**But before, Jacob could take his company
back to the Altar, he had to "Clean House"**

**He had to bury the strange Gods and jewelry
associated with heathen worship.**

**A backslidden believer
does not need a NEW EXPERIENCE
to get right with God.**

**He needs only to reaffirm the old experience
in a new way.**

Jacob; like many of you,
strayed from the will of God

and his 12 sons,
the heirs to the promised land of Abraham,

to become the 12 tribes of Israel,
had many experiences.

Some good, Some bad !!!

Chapter 49

lists the prophecies given to Jacob about his children:

Jacob was concerned about his children in the end;
but, made many mistakes along the road of life

and one of those mistakes was
that he did not always offer his children to GOD
and ask HIS blessing on them

He tried to help them himself
and failed so much of the time:

Genesis begins with a GARDEN
and ends with a COFFIN.

What a commentary of the results of Sin !

IS YOUR CHILD A CHOSEN ONE?

**The bulletin listed this Sunday service as a
Dedication service for our children.**

**As our music leaders come to the front;
ponder in your heart the future of your children.**

HAVE YOU ASKED GOD TO BLESS THEM ?

**DO YOU HAVE AN ASSURANCE
GOD HAS HONORED THAT REQUEST ?**

**IF NOT,
ARE YOU CONTINUING TO MAKE THE REQUEST.**

JACOB THOUGHT JOSEPH WAS DEAD FOR 22 YRS.

**HIS FIRST BORN OF HIS FAVORITE WIFE
WAS TAKEN FROM HIM AT AGE 17 ...**

**THEN 22 YRS. LATER; REUNITED AND WAS GIVEN
THE LAST 17 YRS. OF HIS LIFE WITH HIM.**