



# **BROKEN BUT BLESSED**

## **JACOB WRESTLES WITH GOD**

**GENESIS 32:6-32**

**JIM HINTON**

### **I. GOD IS A LOVING—BUT FIRM—FATHER (See Hebrews 12:5-11)**

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him...

Psalm 103:11-13 (NIV)

### **II. OVERVIEW OF GENESIS 32:7-32**

- 1. Jacob is terrified that Esau is out for revenge (v.7a)**
- 2. Jacob desperately prays for God's deliverance (v.9-12)**
- 3. Jacob sends expensive gifts to hopefully appease Esau (v.13-21)**
- 4. Jacob wrestles with God (v.22-32)**

### **III. WHAT I LEARN FROM JACOB ABOUT BEING GREATLY USED BY GOD**

#### **1. Realize that the only thing that will limit an unlimited God in my life - is my self-reliance**

You will not succeed by your own strength or power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD All-Powerful.

Zechariah 4:6 (NCV)

#### **2. Understand that sometimes God must break me of my self-dependance**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7 (ESV)

#### **3. Admit who and what I am before God**

But his answer was: "My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak." I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ's power over me. I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10-11 (TEV)

#### **4. Know that the Lord will give me a new identity with new potential**

Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (CEV)

#### **5. Resolve that in my brokenness—the blessing will be found by clinging to God.**

for I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.

Philippians 4:13 (TLB)