

Introduction

- Jacob and Esau are finally going to be reunited together.
- The last time they were together Jacob stole the blessing and Esau wanted to murder him.
- In this chapter they are going to reconcile.
- The chapter gives us an image of what reconciliation should look like.
- Jacob finally returns home and sees God's promises fulfilled.

Jacob

- Jacob is seeking to be reconciled with his brother Esau.
- He lifts his eyes to see the 400 men and Esau coming towards him.
- Jacob is finally filled with faith after wrestling with God instead of fear.
- Jacob goes ahead of his family no longer trusting in schemes but in God.
- This is a change from when he was planning on going last behind everyone else.
- Jacob bows down seven times before the brother who was prophesied to bow before him. It shows Jacob's humility and trust that God is in control.
- Jacob is acknowledging his own failures and sins against his brother.
- Jacob wants to find favor and grace in his brother's eyes.
- This is the first time Jacob verbally acknowledges his blessing came from God (v. 5).
- Instead of trying to steal Esau's blessing, now Jacob wants to give Esau the blessing he has received from God (v. 11).
- Jacob is now content with the blessing God has given him instead of wanting more.
- Jacob insists on the gift because he wants true reconciliation not just pretend.
- Jacob rebuffs Esau's offer to protect him with his army while they travel. This is not Jacob trying to avoid his brother but trusting God alone can keep him safe.
- Jacob reaches the promised land safely because of God's protection.

Esau

- God has clearly been working in Esau's life through the years.
- Esau had plenty of legitimate reasons to hold a grudge.
- He falls on Jacob's neck, which is no longer covered in deception (27:16).
- He is no longer holding onto anger but ready to forgive.
- He cares more about being reconciled than receiving the gift.
- He takes the gift for his brother's sake not his own riches.
- Reconciliation can only follow forgiveness. The gifts cannot purchase true forgiveness.
- Esau is willing to forgive even though he has good reason to hold onto hatred.
- Instead of trying to kill his brother, Esau offers to protect his brother from harm as they travel.

God

- God also seeks reconciliation with us.
- Jesus came down to earth in order to help us be reconciled with God.
- “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.” Rom 5:2-12
- It is not enough for a verbal pronouncement to be made, the issue of our sin has to be truly dealt with.
- Like Esau, God forgives us of our sins when we come in faith and ask.
- God is at work in reconciling us together.
- God tears down the walls that divide humanity to unite them in Christ (Eph 2).
- “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
- God has give us the task of preaching the word of reconciliation and bringing reconciliation to the world.

Us

- Do you have relationships that need to be reconciled?
- Do you have people who you need to approach and ask for forgiveness in faith?
- Do you have people that you need to forgive?
- “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” Rom 12:18
- We seek reconciliation through Christ trusting that one day all things He will reconcile all things to himself (Col 1:20).