

STUDY TWENTY NINE

A SPIRIT OF FEAR

Genesis 33

Introduction

Jacob has been changed by a powerful encounter with God. And now he goes to meet Esau. After twenty years much has changed. Both men have accumulated families and wealth. As Jacob and Esau meet imagine their thoughts and emotions. Knowing Christ makes a complete difference in our lives. But we still have to live our lives here on Earth. Jacob has met with God but he still has to meet his brother. What difference does knowing God make in his life?

Questions For Discussion

1.a) How did Jacob express his relationship with Esau (vv.3, 5, 8 & 13-15)?

b) Why was Jacob fearful?

c) Should followers of Christ be fearful of anything? (See Ps. 34:9)

d) How can we overcome the fear of man in our lives? (See 2Tim. 1:7)

2.a) How does Esau express his relationship with Jacob (v.4)?

b) What has caused this change in Esau's attitude?

3.a) How did Esau and Jacob deal with the pain of their past relationship?

b) Is this a good way of dealing with the past?

4.a) What did Jacob tell Esau in v.14?

b) Did Jacob intend to go to Seir (vv.16-19)?

c) Had Jacob changed completely from his old way of life?

d) Is it all right to hide the truth in order to avoid embarrassment?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3.

a) In what way is Jacob similar to the Corinthian believers?

b) What do these two passages tell us about conversion and the life of the believer?

c) Can you think of other passages of the New Testament that teach about progress in the life of the believer?

For Further Thought And Action

What sins from your past life do you still need to deal with? How will you deal with them?

Memory Verse

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

2Timothy 1:7