

HUMILITY, THE FRIEND OF PRAYER

Genesis 32:9-10

Introduction:

(Talk on the life of Jacob), He was full of energy, active, enduring, resolute and because of this, his infirmities became more prominent that they would have been in a quieter and more restful nature. Yet, he was a Master of the art of prayer. And he then can pray true is princely man. He that can prevail with God will certainly prevail, with man. If you have used all your weapons in this spiritual battle don't forget to use the weapon of prayer, which can change things – Jacob became a prevailing man when he came upon his knees (Eph. 6:18).

Message:

- I. Humility should be the attitude of prayer (v.10). Humility is not telling false hood against your self. Humility is forming a right estimate of your self. He worked with Laban but he didn't say, " I am not worthy of what I possessed. " At this point Jacob was talking to His God – he was not like the Pharisee. He was like John the Baptist who said, " whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. " You see at this point he was in danger but he did not say to God, " Lord, I work for you, you've got to help me, " instead he was like Jeremiah who said, " It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. " Sometimes when we are in great pressure, we resort to the urgings of the flesh. Brethren the more we ought to be humble and consult God in prayer. Even in the tense of the verse we did not see Jacob saying, " I was not worthy but he said I am not worthy.

- II. The considerations of humility are the strength of prayer.
 - a. He showed his humility by a confession of the Lord's working in all his prosperity. Even though' man would say that he deserves to be blessed. Yet, those blessings and prosperities are not as earned but grace. Today we hear of people who say, "I am a self-made man" why don't we say," I am a God-made man." Look at Nebuchadnezzar who became proud, he was not yet then speaking, God cast him down.

 - b. Consideration of God's mercies. Realize God's mercies and upon looking at ourselves, we feel empty. We are thankful because of His mercies. Sometimes I ask, "why me Lord?" He would say because of My mercy.

 - c. A comparison of our past and present "with my staff."

- III. True humility supplies us with reasons in prayer.
- a. He talks about his unworthiness
 - b. He talks about God's goodness
"of all thy mercies"
"of all thy truth" (Psalm 85:10)
 - c. He said, "thy servant" Jacob was in the path of duty. And God would make it a path of safety.
 - d. He talks about his experiences v.10b.

Conclusion:

One thing that Jacob realized is that an increase in blessing means a greater responsibility. He might have seemed to say, "Lord when I came here, I had nothing but a staff ..."

I need more grace, or my failure will be the more shameful. The more oxen the more ploughing had to be done. The broader the field, the more we sow. The larger the harvest, the more industriously we reap. For all these we need more strength, more mercy and more grace. When our life's works grow tenuous, difficult and large, we are driven more than ever to our God.

This is our prayer.

" O Lord thou has given me a wider service; give me more grace. Consecrate us, humble us and may our plea of unworthiness adds more grace and truth in our labors –"

Invitation: