



Clear Identity

GENESIS 32:22-32

Pastor Todd Dugard
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WARMING UP

1. If someone says, "Tell me a little about yourself," how do you tend to respond? What details do you mention? Why? What does this reveal?

DIGGING IN

When you know who you are, you can handle anything that comes your way.

2. *Get one-on-one with God (v. 22-24a).* Why do you suppose that Jacob sends his entire caravan across the river while he remains behind? Are you someone who normally faces a crisis in the presence of others or on your own? How so? What can God achieve in our lives in the context of community? What things require us to get alone with him? Why? What is your one-on-one pattern with the Lord?
3. *Wrestle it out with him (v. 24b-25).* How do we know from the text that Jacob is wrestling with God? What further light does Hosea 12:3-4a shed on this scenario? Discuss the concept of this being a theophany/christophany—what is that? What do you make of the fact that, for a time, God does "not prevail against Jacob"? What is going on? How does wrestling down our theology simultaneously clarify our personal identity?
4. *Hold on to him until he blesses you (v. 26).* Why does God tell Jacob to let him go? What is the Lord testing? What response is he after from Jacob? Why do we often settle and let go of God before he fully blesses us? What is the payoff for persevering in faith with the Lord? What evidence is there that this is Jacob's true conversion? How does the following statement from Pastor Todd relate: "a crisis is meant to be a catalyst for a changed life"?
5. *Find your new identity in him alone (v. 27-30).* From what you know about Jacob, what was his identity rooted in? How does the meaning of his name play into this? Why does God give him a brand new name? List some of the examples of misplaced identities that were highlighted. Which one(s) is the biggest issue for you? How so? What has Jesus Christ accomplished that enables us to find our true identity in him? What practical difference does it make that God has changed your identity from sinner to saint?
6. *Walk unashamedly with the limp he gives you (v. 31-32).* Pastor Todd said, "In Christ, you won't be defined by your past, but you shouldn't forget it either." What does this mean? What are the implications? What issue(s) have you wrestled down with God and then come out stronger on the other side? How could you be less ashamed and more confident about your limp? What does 2 Corinthians 12:9 say about this?

BREAKING OUT

7. Is your identity clear? Do you truly know who you are? To what degree are you leaning on this identity as you strive to deal with whatever comes your way? How can you help one another live with the unspeakable freedom and fulfillment that come from having a clear identity?