

# Israel

Genesis 32-36  
February 24, 2011

## Looking for Blessing in All the Wrong Places

Jacob shows little evidence of knowing God or relying on him.

His entire life has been an exercise in lying, scheming, and trying to grab blessings.

Nowhere in the Bible are we told that God is impressed by how hard \_\_\_\_\_.

The world's strategy for fulfillment is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Bible's strategy for fulfillment is \_\_\_\_\_.

It's not about getting a different life; it's discovering I am already blessed in *this life*.

## Rules of Engagement for Wrestling With God

Esau isn't the biggest object on Jacob's radar screen as he comes home; God is.

Come \_\_\_\_\_ (32:24)

Come \_\_\_\_\_ (32:27)

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ (32:24-25)

Expect to be \_\_\_\_\_ (32:26)

Expect to be \_\_\_\_\_ (32:31-32)

Wrestling with God always costs us something – but the only way we can know the fullness of God's blessings is to wrestle with him.

## Face to Face with Esau

Jacob uses his "lesser" children and female partners as human shields.

Genesis 33:4 is a profoundly touching verse; Jesus seems to have it in mind when he tells the parable of the \_\_\_\_\_.

Despite the hope of reconciliation, Jacob / Israel goes north instead of south.