

TRANSFORMED

2. FROM “FULL OF HIMSELF” TO “FULL OF GOD”

Sermon Notes

Text: Genesis 32:22-32

Intro:

We need more than just change; we need to be transformed.

True transformation begins with an encounter with God.

Genesis 32:22-32

Jacob

- Name meant “trickster”
- He wrestled with people and the world in order to build the life he thought he wanted.

The River

- “Jabbok” means “emptying” or “pouring out”
- 1 John 2:17

Wrestling (v. 22-30)

- the man is an angel or a Christophany (an old testament appearance of Jesus). Either way, Jacob was encountering God.

A new name

- Jacob confesses his old name, then is given a new identity.
- *If your identity is not in God, it's in trouble.*

Application:

1. Is there anything you need to let go down the river?
2. Be persistent with God

Luke 18:1-7 - The persistent widow

Conclusion:

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. Did you fight with your siblings growing up? What did you fight about? Who typically won?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Genesis 32:22-30. What stands out to you about this story. What do you make of this strange wrestling match?
2. Read Luke 18:1-7. Jacob wrestled with God and "overcame". Do you think God still wrestles with us (maybe metaphorically?). Do you think the parable of the persistent widow represents wrestling with God? Why would we need to be persistent and "cry out to him day and night"? Shouldn't God just help us the first time? Have you ever experienced a "wrestling match" with God? How did it go?
3. Read Matthew 16:24-26. Jacob stood at the River Jabbok (which means "emptying") completely emptied of all his possessions. It was only in that moment that he was able to receive God's blessing, and his new name. Do you think there are parallels between Jacob's story and Jesus' words in Matthew 16? What does it mean to deny yourself? How do you "lose" your life?

Application:

1. What do you need to let go down the river?
2. Keep being persistent with God!

Prayer:

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