



Our Next Guests – Jacob
Sermon Discussion Questions – August 7, 2022

Scripture Passages:

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV84) 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

Genesis 25:25–26 (NIV84) 25 The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. 26 After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob.

Genesis 25:27–28 (NIV84) 27 The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. 28 Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Genesis 27:18–19 (NIV84) 18 He went to his father and said, “My father.” “Yes, my son,” he answered. “Who is it?” 19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me. Please sit up and eat some of my game so that you may give me your blessing.”

Genesis 32:24(NIV84) 24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.

Genesis 32:27–28 (NIV84) 27 The man asked him, “What is your name?” “Jacob,” he answered. 28 Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.”

Romans 5:6,8 (NIV84) 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. . . 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Warm Up

At the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom shared a story about a time when he and his son had to play a role and pretend to be something they were not to get onto a football field.

What fun or funny memories do you have of pretending to be someone you else or wearing a mask?

Discussion

1. Pastor Tom kicked off his message by asking this question:
“How do we allow Jesus to do his strongest work in our weakest moments?”
As you think about this, what might it look like for Jesus to do a strong work in our weakest moments? Share stories of people or situations where you’ve seen Jesus do his strongest work in someone’s weakest moment.
2. This message covered the story of Jacob. Read Genesis 25:25-26 and 25:27-28.
What do we learn about Jacob and Esau from these verses? What do we learn about their family here?
3. Pastor Tom made this observation about Jacob: “Jacob wished he was someone else.”
What are some things that may cause someone to wish they are someone else? How might this desire to be someone else impact Jacob’s relationships with others and with God?
4. Read Genesis 27:18-19. In this passage, why is Jacob wearing a mask?
Excerpt from Pastor Tom’s message: “We all do this. We do it at church. We do it at work. We do it at home. We do it socially. Masks destroy authentic community.”
How have you seen masks destroy authentic community? What are some characteristics of a community where people take off their masks?
5. Read Genesis 32:24-26 and Genesis 32:27-28.
What parallels do you see between this story and the story described in Genesis 27? How does Jacob respond differently here? How are the results of this interaction different from the results of Jacob’s interaction with his father?
6. Over the last few weeks, several sermons have touched on the idea of the importance of a name. Dr. Lyon shared the story of children in India who had been taken in and given names; Pastor Scott shared how the world tries to give you a new name like the new names given to Daniel and his friends; and this week Pastor Tom is sharing the story of when God gave Jacob a new name.
What is the significance of a name? How might our name or our labels impact our identity?
7. Toward the end of his message Pastor Tom made this statement: “Your mess can be blessed, but not your mask.”
What are some of your reactions to this statement? Why do you think this is true?
8. Read Romans 5:6, 8. Pastor Tom observed that “Jesus is proof that God loves the real version of you.”

Take a few minutes to think about that statement and the truth of Romans 5:6,8. How does that impact you to know that Jesus loves the real version of you? How might knowing this impact the way you live around others?

Next Steps:

Take off the mask.

Do it with God first.

Do it with yourself next.

Do it with others, after the first two.

What mask are you wearing? What might it look like for you to take off the mask?

What is one way you can practically take off your mask with God, with yourself, or with others this week?