

Heart of Revival – The Unstoppable Grace of God (Gen 32: 24-32)

- Jacob's meeting with Esau, day of fearful darkness: his past confronts him.
- God chose Jacob over Esau to fulfil His covenant faithfulness to Abraham
- A most unlikely character for such unique and marvellous privilege
- Yet God had an appointment with Jacob that would change his life forever

I. Combat and Crippling 32: 24, 25

- Jacob overcome with fear in meeting Esau, his family leaves him, he prays.
- Vs 24. Jacob wrestled with a man, a divine being (vs. 29-31: Hos 12:4)
- God was Jacob's ultimate enemy, Jacob was wrestling with God
- Wrestling was a parable of his entire life: brother (ch. 25:22), father (ch.27), father-in-law (29-31), and now with God (32) he wrestled with man & God
- As the two wrestled, Jacob didn't know he was in the grip of relentless grace
- Pressing on is essential in our character as God's children; perseverance
- God promised Jacob land & descendants; he laid hold of the promises: 28:15
- Jacob's opponent touched his hip socket when Jacob would not let go (25) a crippling grace from the hand of God. Only later would he understand.
- It was God's grace that enabled Jacob to wrestle and prevail (Hos 12:4)
- It is heart-wrenching work to wrestle with God, but it is rewarding (Ps 126:5)

II. Renaming and Blessing 32: 26-29

- Wrestlers are exhausted; Jacob's assailant says 'let me go for day has broken'
- Jacob, sensing the character of his opponent, seizes an opportunity (vs. 26) His request came at the end of himself, it was a tear choked plea (Hos 12:4)
- Jacob confessed, when his assailant asked his name, he was a fraud (27)
- His confession evoked amazing transforming grace, his name is changed (28)

III. Revelation about God and Jacob 32: 30-32

- When Jacob recognised that he wrestled with God, his persistence turned into awe (30)
- When Jacob fled, his flight was marked by an ominous darkness, but now (31)
- God left His mark on Jacob, his life is a story of relentless grace, intrusive grace, renovating grace, tenacious grace in that it wouldn't let him go