



THURSDAY 09.16.10

Genesis 27:41

Enmity between sons is a recurring theme in the book of Genesis. In the fourth chapter we find the first example as Cain, in a jealous rage, kills his brother, Abel. By taking what rightfully belonged to his brother, Jacob fueled a hatred in Esau that would eventually lead Jacob to seek exile in a distant land. Two decades would pass before these brothers saw each other again.

- Following Jacob's departure, we can imagine that there were many days Esau could think of nothing else besides revenge. Anger is often our response to a hurt inflicted on us by someone else. Has this type of anger ever grown in your life? In what way?
- How would you describe the connection between forgiveness and healing? If being healed of a brokenness in your life is one of your goals, is there anyone you need to forgive today?

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FRIDAY 09.17.10

Genesis 32:22-32

In many ways, Jacob's life had changed dramatically since his departure. Two wives, two maidservants, eleven children and a great many possessions had been added to his life. Yet in other ways, Jacob was still the same man, running away from the demons of his past. For all Jacob's success, he knew that he had built a life on the blessing that he had stolen from his brother.

- As he prepared to be reunited with his brother, Jacob wrestled with an angel and seeks the angel's blessing. What singular request does the angel make of Jacob in verse 27? Why do you think the angel asks this?
- Do you ever find yourself, like Jacob, tempted to be something that you are not? After reading Jacob's story this week, how do you think God feels about our desire to sometimes hide our true selves?

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GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *Broken*

Sermon: *Who Am I?*

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-28

**The Big Picture**

- All of us know what it is like to feel BROKEN.
- All of us are in need of RECOVERY.
- For all of us, RECOVERY is possible.
- Recovery is not about finding the right ANSWERS, but asking the right QUESTIONS.

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## Introduction

No biblical character more vividly illustrates our pursuit of an answer to the question “Who am I?” than the youngest son of Isaac. Jacob spends most of his life searching for that answer, and along the way, he ended up damaging some of the most important relationships in his life. Scripture tells us that the battle between Jacob and his twin brother, Esau, began even before they were born. Before their warring eventually came to end, Jacob had tricked his brother out of his birthright, stolen his father’s blessing and made himself an enemy that Esau vowed to destroy.

This series is built upon the simple idea that each of us is recovering from something. We have all experienced wounds in our lives, and each of us has inflicted those wounds on others at some point. We are recovering from our own sin, the sins of others that have injured us and the collateral damage we all experience from living in a fallen world. Like Jacob, we have found ourselves searching for answers and in need of something to help us make something beautiful out of our messy lives.

***Holy God, I confess to you that I am broken. I need healing in my life. I need restoration. Help me today to place the hurts I have experienced in my life in your care. Give me the faith to believe that you will fulfill the promises you have made to bind up and heal my wounds. AMEN.***



## MONDAY 09.13.10

## Genesis 25:19-28

Though God had a special plan in mind for the offspring of Abraham, the stories recorded in Genesis prompt us to consider the idea that this family is in some ways no different from any other. “Isaac loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.” The struggle that began in their mother’s womb and will unfold between these brothers in our readings this week serves as a reminder that dysfunction is something that affects all families.

- Henri Nouwen writes that forgiveness is “love practiced among people who love poorly.” Even in our most significant relationships, we sometimes love poorly and can hurt those we deeply love. How might Isaac and Rebekah have unintentionally wounded their sons with their favoritism?
- In what ways is your brokenness connected to the significant relationships in your life? If forgiving others is an important step in being healed, what’s the next step for you?

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## TUESDAY 09.14.10

## Genesis 27:1-10

In the world of Isaac, Esau and Jacob, a father’s blessing was a powerful and treasured gift. The NIV Study Bible notes that “deathbed bequests had legal force in the ancient Near Eastern law.” Rebekah, recognizing the importance of the meeting that was about to occur between her husband Isaac and her firstborn son Esau, invites Jacob to conspire with her and undermine her husband’s plans.

- What is Jacob’s initial reaction to his mother’s plan? How does Rebekah eventually convince Jacob to follow her instructions?
- In later episodes we will see Jacob growing into the role of being the “conniver” and “manipulator” of others, but in this scene we find him following his mother’s lead. Have you ever felt led astray by those who were supposed to be “models” for you? What affect has that had on your own practices and behaviors?

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## WEDNESDAY 09.15.10

## Genesis 27:18-29

Isaac, a man near death and blinded because of the weakness of his old eyes, seemed cautious as he received the meal from Jacob. Just when the plan seemed doomed to fail, Isaac smelled the clothes of Esau that Rebekah had instructed Jacob to wear and gives to his youngest son the blessing that had been intended for Esau.

- You will recall that the struggle between Jacob and Esau to receive this blessing had started within their mother’s womb. These words of Isaac were the treasure that Jacob had wanted to receive his entire life, but in order to do so, Jacob had to become someone else. Have you ever faced a similar temptation? Even though he got what he wanted, how might this experience have damaged Jacob?
- In what ways might “dressing up your life” to receive something you want produce a long-term brokenness in your life?

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