

# The School of Jabbok

## **Intro:**

false confidence is a dangerous thing - video

## **Problem:**

2 Cor 12:7-10

The great preacher Martyn Lloyd-Jones was once asked, "What does a person look like who has truly met God?" Alluding to Genesis 32:31, he replied, "He walks with a limp"

unfortunately this is not very obvious in today's church

James 4:1-10

According to virtually every source of knowledge today - except the Bible- our problem is that we don't believe in ourselves enough - we need more self esteem

GK Chesterton:

Thoroughly worldly people never understand even the world; they rely altogether on a few cynical maxims which are not true.

"Shall I tell you where the men are who believe most in themselves? For I can tell you. I know of men who believe in themselves more colossally than

Napoleon or Caesar. I know where flames the fixed star of certainty and success. I can guide you to the thrones of the Super-men. The men who really

believe in themselves are all in lunatic asylums."

That drunken poet from whom you would not take a dreary tragedy, he believed in himself. That elderly minister with an epic from whom you were hiding

in a back room, he believed in himself. If you consulted your business experience instead of your ugly individualistic philosophy, you would know that

believing in himself is one of the commonest signs of a rotter. Actors who can't act believe in themselves; and debtors who won't pay. It would be much

truer to say that a man will certainly fail, because he believes in himself.

Complete self-confidence is not merely a sin; complete self-confidence is a weakness. Believing utterly in one's self is a hysterical and superstitious

belief

... A man was meant to be doubtful about himself, but undoubting about the truth; this has been exactly reversed. Nowadays the part of a man that a man does assert is exactly the part he ought not to assert--himself. The part he doubts is exactly the part he ought not to doubt—the Word of God.

we have replaced Jesus with Mesus

In Genesis 32 Jacob is enrolled in the school of Jabbok where he is sweetly broken to truly experience the blessing of God

## **Main Idea:**

If His presence

does not stop your panic

If His promises

do not stop your planning

His power will stop your pride

## **Implication:**

Jn 10:1-5

the psychology of self esteem has crept into the church but it is a false shepherd

## **Application:**

Jn 10:6-14

the Good shepherd knows who you really are and calls you by name - are you listening - you don't need 50 counselors or daily affirmations or mind mastery cards to be blessed - you have His Word, His Spirit dwells within you Christian. You don't have to go to the school of Jabbok to cling to Him. You don't have to walk with a limp, but one way or another you will cling to Him. I agree with James- let us humble ourselves through the Word - we don't need to go to Jabbok to do it - we can go to the cross

## **Articles for further study:**

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/god-cares-for-you>

<https://www.gty.org/library/articles/A112/A-Worried-Christian>

# The School of Jabbok

Text:

## If His presence

Gen. 32:1 ¶ Jacob went on his way, and the angels(messengers) of God met him.

Gen. 32:2 And when Jacob saw them he said, "**This is God's camp!**" So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

Gen 28:10-17 (surely God is here)

Gen 31:11-13 (and with Jacob)

2 kings 6:15-17 (open eyes to what is true)

## does not stop your panic

Gen. 32:3 ¶ And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom,

Gen. 32:4 instructing them, "Thus you shall say to my lord Esau: Thus says your servant Jacob, 'I have sojourned with Laban and stayed until now.

Gen. 32:5 **I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, male servants, and female servants. I have sent to tell my lord, in order that I may find favor in your sight.**"

Gen. 32:6 ¶ And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "**We came to your brother Esau, and he is coming to meet you, and there are four hundred men with him.**"

Gen. 32:7 **Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed.** He divided the people who were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two camps,

Gen. 32:8 thinking, "If Esau comes to the one camp and attacks it, then the camp that is left will escape."

Gen 25:31 (making amends)

Gen 33:11 (restore blessing he stole)

Gen 27:42 (panic - instant)

2 Pet 1:8-9 (nearsighted)

## If His promises

Gen. 32:9 ¶ And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,'

Gen. 32:10 I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps.

Gen. 32:11 Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children.

Gen. 32:12 **But you said,** 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

1 Jn 5:14-15 (He knew the promises of God)

Phil 4:6-7 (why did he have no peace?)

## do not stop your planning

Gen. 32:13 ¶ So he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau,

Gen. 32:14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

Gen. 32:15 thirty milking camels and their calves, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys.

Gen. 32:16 These he handed over to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me and put a space between drove and drove."

Gen. 32:17 He instructed the first, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?'

Gen. 32:18 then you shall say, 'They belong to your servant Jacob. They are a present sent to my lord Esau. And moreover, he is behind us.'"

Gen. 32:19 He likewise instructed the second and the third and all who followed the drives, "You shall say the same thing to Esau when you find him,

Gen. 32:20 and you shall say, 'Moreover, your servant Jacob is behind us.'" **For he thought, "I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterward I shall see his face. Perhaps he will accept me."**

Gen. 32:21 So the present passed on ahead of him, and he himself stayed that night in the camp.

until his belief in himself was eclipsed

1 Pet 5:6-7 (because he was proud)

## His power will stop your pride

Gen. 32:22 ¶ The same night he arose and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

Gen. 32:23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and everything else that he had.

Gen. 32:24 And Jacob was left alone. **And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.**

Gen. 32:25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and **Jacob's hip was put out of joint** as he wrestled with him.

Gen. 32:26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." **But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."**

Gen. 32:27 And he said to him, "**What is your name?**" And he said, "**Jacob.**"

Gen. 32:28 Then he said, "**Your name shall no longer be called Jacob (striver), but Israel (God strives),** for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Gen. 32:29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

Gen. 32:30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

Gen. 32:31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Gen. 32:32 Therefore to this day the people of Israel do not eat the sinew of the thigh that is on the hip socket, because he touched the socket of Jacob's hip on the sinew of the thigh.

Josh 5:13-15 (contrast reaction)

Hosea 12:2-6 (sweetly broken)

gen 27:18-19 (I am Jacob not Esau - God is enough)

Matt 18:1-4 (we believe too much in ourselves)

Psalm 23 (Jacob learned the blessing of brokenness)