

Wrestling With God

Genesis 32:22-32 Colossians 1:21-23a Matthew 26:36-46

1. Why is the account of Jacob wrestling with God one of the craziest stories in the Bible?

2. Do you agree that most everyone has wrestled with God over issues or experiences in their lives? Why?

3. *You are encouraged to fill out a “Wrestling With God” card and turn it so that it may be used in shaping the sermons for this series.*

4. Why do we think the “man” who wrestles with Jacob is God?
 - Let the Bible interpret the Bible, especially the immediate context. In verse 30 Jacob indicates that the man is God. Jacob names the place “Peniel” meaning “face of God.”
 - Also Hosea 12:3-5 indicates that the man Jacob wrestled with was an angel who is identified as God. An angel is a messenger of God and in the Bible when an angel shows up, people consider the angel to be God.
 - An angel of God appears in human form in other places in the Bible. Genesis 18.
 - In verse 25, the man’s wrenching of Jacob’s hip socket appears to be a supernatural act.
 - In verse 29 the discussion about knowing the man’s name is like other discussions where knowing God’s name is a big deal. Exodus 3:13-15
 - Jacob asks for and receives a blessing and new name which is what only God does.
 - In Genesis 35:9-15 there is a reprise of God’s blessing and renaming Jacob and God is clearly stated there to be the one doing this.
 - Why would this be such a big deal if it was just a man?
 - We know that God appears in human form to bless us and his name is Jesus.

5. A primary question for this account: What is the issue or experience over which Jacob is wrestling with God?
 - What appears to be the initial answer?

 - What is the answer given in verse 25?

6. What is the take away from this sermon?
 - How is this take away illustrated in the story?

 - Why is this a helpful part of the story?

 - What does Colossians 1:21 teach?

 - Again, the great take away ...

7. Next Steps: