

Genesis 32

Pastor Tommy Bailey

August 29, 2021



SERMON NOTES

Genesis 32

*“Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature’s night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.”*

- Charles Wesley

- **Where is the grace of God at work in my life today?**
- **How am I responding to that grace?**

“Dear God, I am so afraid to open my clenched fists! Who will I be when I have nothing left to hold on to? Who will I be when I stand before You with empty hands? Please help me to gradually open my hands and to discover that I am not what I own, but what You want to give me.”

- Henri Nouwen, *The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life*

Genesis 32

1. The pursuing grace of God
2. The wounding grace of God
3. The renovating grace of God

“...Knowing God is a matter of grace. It is a relationship in which the initiative throughout is with God—as it must be, since God is so completely above us and we have so completely forfeited all claim on His favor by our sins. We do not make friends with God; God makes friends with us, bringing us to know Him by making His love known to us.”

- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

“O God, holy beyond our thought, we do not belong in Your fellowship except that, in Your goodness, it is a fellowship provided explicitly for sinners, a fellowship of mercy...Correct me. Unite me. Pull me apart and put me back together the right way. Let me be whole.”

- Cornelius Plantinga, *Morning and Evening Prayers*

“The message of the gospel is that God invades us with new life, and the life changes what we presently are. He is not a means by which we solve problems. He is not a means to avoid problems. He creates new life. He is not a problem solver but a person creator.”

- Eugene Peterson, *Every Step an Arrival*