

Daily devotions for 2019



Day 12
Jacob, part 2

Tables Turned on the Trickster

Genesis 27 v41-45 28 v10-21 (+chapters 29-31)

"I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go."

Genesis 28 v15

Esau, understandably, was a bit miffed at being deceived so Rebekah sent Jacob away. There seemed no resolution to the conflict between the brothers.

Jacob ran, afraid for his life. At this point God shows up in a dream, not to chastise Jacob for his lies, deceit and blasphemy – but to bless him and promise to be with him. Wow! What has Jacob done to deserve this? Absolutely nothing! This is grace.

God meets us where we are and speaks into our lives and we get to choose how we respond. Jacob responded with fear, awe and a deal! If God looks after him He will be his God and Jacob will give a tenth of all God gives him. Amazingly, God honours this deal. A relationship is established, a blessing is received without trickery, freely given from the Father who will watch over him.

The story unfolds, and the Trickster learns how it feels to be on the receiving end of 'tricks' as he is deceived by Laban and his wives. But Jacobs heart is changed; he faithfully works hard, honours his 'deal' with God, is blessed with family and, through some God-directed 'trickery', with flocks and wealth. Laban's family are jealous and miffed so Jacob runs, scared again and perceiving no possible resolution. This time Laban chases him, resolves the conflict and makes a covenant of peace between them.

How much does fear control what we do or don't do in life and are we willing to trust God to help us with our fears and the conflicts we face.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for your grace that draws us into relationship with you and that you love and bless us just as we are. Help us to respond to this amazing grace with trust. Amen.