
Finding God on the Run – Discovering Hope in Jacob’s Messy Life – Genesis 25-36 – Week 9

RAN, THREW, KISSED, CRIED

Lessons from the reunion of Jacob and Esau - Genesis 33

By Josh McNall

Introduction: Reunions can be awkward. One reason is the aura of uncertainty that often hangs over them. Will Uncle So-and-So get drunk? Will my high school sweetheart recognize me? Will Chandler Bing seem lucid? Does that long-lost cousin nurse a grudge?

Nonetheless, those “reunion questions” pale in comparison to the uncertainty hanging over the return of Jacob to Esau. *Will he kill me?* was Jacob’s question.

In the unexpected welcome offered to Jacob, we’ll find lessons for today as we sometimes struggle to accept our own acceptance.

1. A transformed relationship with God (i.e., grace) *must* terminate in a transformed posture toward enemies.

2. When a would-be enemy reaches out in kindness, that act reveals the heart and face of God.

3. Unfortunately, many of us struggle (like Jacob) to accept our own acceptance.

Today's Big Idea: Have the courage to accept your own acceptance; and allow that confidence to dismantle the "enemy-making machine."