

## **Don't Let Go!**

Week #8: Wrestling with God

Genesis 32:22-31

1.) Even though it may feel like it...you are never **alone**.

- Genesis 32:23-24a - After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone...
- Isaiah 41:10 - So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

2.) Even though it may seem like God is the enemy...He is your only **hope**.

- Genesis 32:24b-25- And a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.
- Hosea 12:3-4 - Jacob...as a man he struggled with God. He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor.
- Genesis 32:26 - Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

### ***When You're Inside the Ring...***

- Don't Let Go...of your **Identity!**
  - Genesis 32:27- The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.
- Don't Let Go...of God's **Promises!**
  - Genesis 32:26 29, - But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me"....Then he blessed him there.
  - Genesis 32:30-31 - So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

*If Jesus is all we have, then we have all we need!*

### **Points to Ponder**

- 1.) Compare Jacob's situation with your own life. What struggles are you experiencing both externally and internally? How are you handling them?
- 2.) Reflect on the "new Jacob" who wrestled with God instead of going his own way. What lesson does God teach him? What lesson can you learn and apply from Jacob's wrestling match?
- 3.) How does your perspective on life's struggles change when you realize "the only one who can help you is the one you're wrestling with"? Read Romans 5:1-11 and recall how Jesus endured the greatest struggle and won the victory for us!

Homework: Matthew 28:18-20