

Pastor's Corner: "Behold the Face of Good"

Have you ever noticed that some of the greatest moments in life happen when things don't go according to plan?

Jacob certainly knew something about that. In Genesis 32, we find him alone at night, preparing to face his brother Esau after years of running away from his past. Just when Jacob thinks he has everything organized, a mysterious stranger shows up, and Jacob ends up wrestling all night long.

Now, I have to admit, if I were Jacob, I probably would have tried a different approach. Most of us, when we see trouble coming, we don't usually say, "Wonderful! I've been hoping for an all-night wrestling match." We look for the exit door, hide behind someone else, or at least pretend we didn't see the problem coming.

But Jacob wrestled. He struggled. He held on. And somewhere in the middle of that struggle, Jacob discovered that he wasn't fighting for a victory—he was fighting for a blessing. God changed Jacob's name and reminded him that his future would not be defined by his mistakes but by God's grace.

Then we turn to Matthew 14, and we find another impossible situation. Thousands of people are hungry, the disciples are overwhelmed, and all they can find is a few loaves and fish. The disciples basically look at Jesus and say, "This is a big problem, and we have a very small solution."

It is almost like they were saying, "Jesus, we checked the pantry, and unfortunately we only have enough food for a couple of people... maybe three if nobody asks for seconds."

But Jesus takes what seems insignificant, gives thanks, and multiplies it. What the disciples saw as not enough, Jesus saw as an opportunity for God to work.

These two stories remind us of something important: God often meets us in moments when we feel overwhelmed, unprepared, or completely outmatched.

Sometimes we are Jacob, wrestling with questions, fears, regrets, or uncertainty. Sometimes we are the disciples, looking at our resources and saying, "There is no way this is enough." But God specializes in impossible situations.

The good news is that God does not ask us to bring everything. God asks us to bring what we have.

Jacob brought his struggle. The disciples brought their small basket of food. And God transformed both into something greater than they imagined.

So this week, when you find yourself wrestling with a difficult situation or staring at a problem that feels too big, remember: God is already there. The same God who met Jacob in the darkness and multiplied a few loaves and fish is still working miracles today.

And who knows? Maybe the thing you think is your biggest problem is actually the place where God is preparing your greatest blessing.

Just remember—if you find yourself wrestling with God, hang on. Jacob did, and he walked away changed. Although, hopefully, unlike Jacob, you won't need a new hip afterward!