



WRESTLEMANIA

Ever wrestled
with God?

When it comes to struggles in daily life, we can count on God's mixing it up with us, challenging us, convicting us, evaluating us, judging us. We may have to place our life at risk, knowing that the one who loses life will find it. God honors the relationship both by engaging in the struggle in the first place and by persisting in that struggle through thick and thin. The most meticulous of preparations cannot guarantee a certain shape for the future. God may break into life and force a new direction for thought and action.

The Interpreters Bible



Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to **adopt** us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Eph. 1:4-5

“While he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my *heart strangely warmed*. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

John Wesley

Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near so I can touch you, my son, to know whether you really are my son Esau or not.” Jacob went close to his father Isaac, who touched him and said, “The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” He did not recognize him, for his hands were hairy like those of his brother Esau; so he proceeded to bless him. “Are you really my son Esau?” he asked. “I am,” he replied.

Gen. 27:21-24

**“Man who wrestled with him
(Jacob) until the breaking of the day.”**

Genesis 32:24

When it was all said and done, as dawn rises, Jacob hasn't been wrestling with just any Man, but he has been wrestling with God. It just goes without saying, you can't pen "down" God, can you? You can't get the upper hand on God, can you? Try and try again... It's not about winning or losing it's about getting to that place where you realize you are standing, or kneeling or lying in the presence of God.

What Jacob really wants:

To know he really matters to God.

**In other words, “God do you know
who I am? In the great scheme of
things, do I count for anything?”**

Max Lucado

“Adopted Children are Chosen Children.”

Max Lucado

- Johnsons

God saw our entire lives from beginning to end, birth to hearse, and in spite of what he saw, he was still convinced “to **adopt** us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.”

Ephesians 1:5

Lord have mercy...haven't all been deeply vulnerable and felt alone in our lives. Have you ever said, "If you are out there Lord, I need you and I need you now...so please speak...do something because I need you."

Wrestling Match Facts

- He is given a new name Israel.
- He is given a blessing.
- He gets to see the face of God.
- He is given a bum hip.
He is marked by life because of the struggle.

Defining moments lead
to change and this is a
defining moment for Jacob.

#1 Let's Just Name It

- Jacob = Israel
- Israel = “God Strives”

Jacob's Internal Wrestling Match

- He is wrestling with the fact. his brother may kill him.
- He is wrestling with the fact that he has stolen his brothers birthright and blessing.
- He is wrestling with the fact that he was a liar, cheat and manipulator. to get what he wanted?

#2 Let's Just Claim It

Jacob is BLESSED:

God is a God of Blessing!

God's promise that he will remain connected to him in all his struggles with life.

Harold's Wrestling Match

- Fear Not...
- Lean not on your own understanding...

#3 Let's Just See It

Jacob sees God's Face:

“But,” God said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

Exodus 33:20

What are you willing to risk your life for?

Stated another way...

**What do you want more
than anything out of life?**

What do have to have out of life?

**In other words, a must have that only comes
from the mystery **M**an!**

#4 Let's Just Own It

Jacob Sustains an injury..." Hip and a Hop"

- On the one hand it signifies *Jacob's success*. He has struggled and he got what he wanted, needed...**A blessing**. He now knows that God's presence will always be with him, and he will never be alone. He is striving with God. So Jacob is not a victim.
- On the other hand it testifies to **God's grace**.. Jacob has wrestled with God until the twilight of the day, and seen the face of God ...and his life is spared. So the "mark" symbolizes both who Jacob is and who God is.

Twilight Experience

If we can face God then we
can certainly face a new day.

You need to get “Right with God”.

**We have received an inheritance
from God, for he chose us from
the beginning.**

Eph 1:11