Genesis – "Reunion!"

Vs.8-11

July 26th, 2020Pastor Jim LaxsonGod is gracious! Many view Him as harsh, aloof and insensitive.<br/>Perhaps it is the misconception that natural consequences are<br/>"God's discipline" rather than the result of our decisions ~ if I<br/>leap from a cliff, the consequence is the result of gravity and a<br/>sudden stop – and that is a natural consequence – we get smarts!<br/>Sometimes, our Lord does discipline us – our response toward<br/>Him, the discipline and/or the natural consequence may result in<br/>a body or soul scar – our response determines whether it becomes self-offensive or a mark of ownership and disgrace.

**Context:** Jacob has wrestled with the LORD and was "preserved" by His grace! The leaning on his staff will forever be a reminder of Jacob's new name, Israel, and relationship to now, his Adonai! Now, physically humbled yet spiritually renewed, he is still experiences anxiety as he meets Esau, physically robust . . and 400 warriors . . . interesting sight . . .

Genesis 33:1-3

V.4

Vs.5-7

Vs.12-16

V.17

Vs.18-20

Jacob left 20 years prior and now returns - "Home Sweet Home!" He now has a family, many possessions, a new name, "Israel", is reunited with his brother and father, Isaac, but most important - has a new relationship with God, Adonai! Things appear to be going well for him! The GREAT news is that the LORD will continue to develop Israel and future descendants with purpose and grace. God will continue to bring along "Crises of Faith" in this process -

## Every crisis of faith requires decision which determines God's participation!

How is He working in <u>your</u> life? Are you growing or are you re-lapping the same mountains?

What part of this passage "caught your attention"?

Is God saying something to you? What is it?

How will you respond?