

SURPRISE! IT'S GOD!

Genesis 32:24-32

Have you been a Christian for a long time? Does God still surprise you? If I had to conclude one thing about God's working in my life, it would be that it hasn't been ANYTHING like I expected it to be! I have come to discover that God doesn't work the way we expect Him to. As a matter of fact, some of the most significant moments in our lives can, at the time, seem SO insignificant. The story of Jacob is particularly helpful in this understanding.

THREE SURPRISES AT JABBOK

Surprise! #1

I've been surprised to discover that my toughest battles have been with God rather than the devil.

I'm NOT saying that we don't battle with the devil. I'm just saying that I have found it easier to say "NO" to the devil than to say "YES" to God. I don't know who Jacob thought had grabbed him in the darkness of that midnight, but I can say without fear of contradiction, that he didn't think they were there to "bless" him. Somewhere in the process of the struggle, he receives a revelation that this aggressor is not there to kill him, but rather, to "bless" him. The reason that this is such a tremendous battle is because God is reaching down into the depth of our soul and trying to drag the JACOB out of us! (v.27)

Surprise! #2

I've been surprised to discover that the thing I'm trying to get free from is the very thing that God has sent into my life to bless me.

My trouble in life is that I, sometimes, can't tell trash from treasure! Can you think of something that God sent into your life that you struggled violently against, only to discover later, that it was one of the causes of great blessing for you?

Faith is NOT: The power to change things to the way I want them to be.

Faith IS: The courage to embrace life as it is!

Surprise! #3

I've been surprised to discover that good and bad run on parallel tracks and usually arrive at the same time.

Did Jacob get what he wanted? Yep! He saw Esau's face the next morning and lived to tell about it! (Genesis 33:1, 4) He also got something he didn't want. He got a limp for the rest of his life. Jacob walks away with the strength of God and the limp of a helpless man!

**How can I benefit from this?
It all depends on what you name it!**