

## CALL IT WHAT YOU WANT

Genesis 35

Jacob has been a good, dysfunctional guide for us through this journey of faith. Hopefully, you have concluded that if God can use him, surely, He can use Me!

### FOUR CONSIDERATIONS OF BEING USED BY GOD

**Consideration #1: Sometimes God will give us what we pray for, but, when He does, it will cost a price we never imagined.**

Rachel prayed for another son. God gave her Benjamin. But she didn't know what we now know - that God would give her a son, and in the process, she would lose her own life. When you ask God to use you, He may indeed do so; but it may require you to be broken and poured out in ways that you may not see coming when you asked. It's great to ask God to use you but realize certain burdens may be necessary that you haven't considered.

**Consideration #2: Quite often in our lives, one thing is dying while something else is coming alive.**

We have a little colloquialism we use nowadays to express our view of a certain situation or frame of mind. We say, *It's all good!* I suppose this is an acceptable retort if you are mindful that it's not ever true. It's not ever ALL good. Romans 8:28 tells us that God, quite often, must work many things TOGETHER to make them work for our good. If you put life on hold until *it's all good* to be happy, celebrate victories, have peace in your heart, or enjoy what God has given you - you never will.

**Consideration #3: Great strength is often born from great sorrow.**

As Rachel breathed her last breath, she requested that her son be named *Ben-Oni*, but Jacob says, "We'll name the boy Benjamin." *Ben* means *son*. *Oni* is a little more complicated. *Oni* seems to have a dual meaning that is based on usage. It can mean *vigor or strength*, or it can mean *sorrow*. Most likely, based on the context here, it means *sorrow*. Rachel is breathing her last, and she names her son *SORROW*. The interesting thing is that the name CAN mean both *sorrow* and *strength*. How can the same word represent such diametrically opposed viewpoints? Maybe we should consider that these concepts might not be as mutually exclusive as we think.

**Consideration #4: You don't get to choose everything that comes into your life, but as a child of God, you do get to choose what you call it.**

Many people are happy to inform you that, in life, they just *call it like it is!* I think we all understand that this is their way of letting us know that they want to keep things REAL. *Calling it like it is* doesn't take any faith. Anyone can *call it like it is*. Anyone can say, "This is so depressing and discouraging." It might well be. It's depressing to lose your father to a stroke or your mom to Alzheimer's. It's discouraging to deal with your children on drugs. It's frustrating when you can't get a job. So, you can *call it what it is*, and it will always be what it is; OR, like Jacob, you can say, "That's what it WAS, but, out of sorrow, I choose to see strength!"