

Jacob & the Gospel # 10

# Genesis 32<sup>1-21</sup>

## When the way forward is backward

Lord's day morning: 16 Sept 2007

Preacher: Geoff Findlay

Children's talk: A remote-control car

### Introduction (1-2)

Nobody likes going backwards

The skeleton in the closet

Angels encamped around us

### What about your offended brother?

#### Making the first move (3-8)

Did I provoke his sin?

Worth a detour

What restitution is required?

Hoping for the best – but fearing the worst

#### Praying as never before (9-12)

Not quite the prodigal son?

Is this real repentance?

The oil that makes the engine of reconciliation run

#### Sending a gift on ahead (13-21)

Bribing his way home?

More restitution?

Is there more to this pacifying than meets the eye?

### What about your elder brother?

He made the first move

He prayed as we will never pray

His gift has gone before us



### Questions answered

- When do we need to go backward in order to move forward, spiritually?
- What teaching of Jesus is being illustrated here in the life of Jacob?
- What purpose was served by the visit from the angels to Jacob? How was this an encouragement to Jacob to proceed?
- What should we do if we are not convicted of any sin on our part, but we believe that someone has sinned against us? What question do we need to be asking ourselves on the way?
- What do the geographical locations of the parties reveal about Jacob's attitude and conviction?
- In what way is some restitution implied in the message that Jacob sent to Esau?
- Does God promise to protect us from the natural consequences of our sinful actions?
- In what ways is Jacob's prayer a model prayer for us?
- How do you interpret Jacob's extensive gift for Esau?
- What is significant about the concept of Jacob "pacifying" Esau with his gift?
- Who is the elder brother we have offended? How have we offended Him?
- How is our elder brother's response reflected in our text?
- What is the connection between our offended brother and our elder brother according to the teaching of Jesus?



### Things to pray about

- Awareness and conviction about any *Esaus* from my past whom I need to revisit.
- God's grace for me to manifest repentance, restitution and reconciliation with others throughout my life.
- Our awesome elder Brother who has done so much for us!