Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 & Gen. 32:24-32 & Gen. 43:1-14

Singing: 288:1-4 – 172:2-3 – 209:1-3,6-8 – 202:1-3 – 100:1-4

**Israel’s Faith’s Journey**

I. The wrestling of faith II. The victory of faith III. The rest of faith

**I. Israel’s faith journey shows us *the wrestling of faith***

A. Jacob’s wrestle with God is here about 30 years ago (Gen. 32:24-32)

 1. Wrestling is *enormously demanding*

a. Jacob didn’t start the wrestle and was on the defensive all night

b. finally God disabled Jacob with the mere touch of His finger

 2. Jacob’s ‘thigh’ can be seen as symbol of his *bosom sin*

B. Genesis 43 is still the story of Jacoband *how* God is teaching him

 1. If His Words and Spirit’s wrestling aren’t heeded, God will use His

providences to sanctify His people

a. Joseph’ disappearance is now more than 20 years

 b. Jacob hasn’t fared well: consider 42:35-37 – 43:1-2

C. Are you struggling like Jacob?

 1. You struggles may differ than his though they may affect the same

 2. Scripture assures that you are *not alone* in these struggles

a. each saints suffers *by the Master’s design* to make them grow

b. be assured that *God never forsakes what He began*

**II. The Victory of Faith**

A. Though name ‘Israel’ used in vs. 6, he is still having *objections*

 1. in Israel’s struggle we see *faith and reason* competing

 a. are believers asked to abandon *our reasoning ability*

 b. what is the place then of ‘reason vs. faith’?

B. The first beam of victory of his faith shines through in vs. 11-13

 1. He surrenders his Benjamin (vs. 13)

 a. faith is defined as *act of surrender – giving one into hand of God*

 2. Yet even now Israel ***struggles in his faith***

 a. he isn’t abandoning *his measures to secure good-will* (11-12)

b. do you recognize this struggle to live by faith alone?

C. What brought Israel to this final surrender of his Benjamin in faith?

 1. It was Judah’s offer to be *the surety for him* (vs. 9)

 2. So it is spiritually as fruit of Holy Spirit’s power:  *once we hear and*

*embrace the offer of the Savior, we can let go of all our conditions*

 3. Are you struggling to believe Jesus’ offer to *be your Substitute?*

 a. Is it because you struggle to believe it is for you because

 • you feel so unworthy?

• you fear you have no permission to believe it?

 • you don’t have faith to believe it?

**III. The Rest of Faith**

A. Israel’s final words a complete surrender (Job 1:21)

 1. He rests his *troubled heart* in the God Almighty and Merciful

 a. a surrendering heart *trusts God* with the outcome

 b. a surrendering heart is a *heart that rests in God*

B. How do we attain to this *rest of faith*?

 1. by not placing your *reasoning above believing*

 2. by placing your *hope in Jesus and His Word alone*

 a. Ps. 37:5, 7

b. Matthew 11:28

That faith which is never assaulted with doubting is but a fancy. Assuredly that assurance which is ever secure is but a dream. (R. Bolton)

The Christian must trust in a withdrawing or withholding God. (W. Gurnall)

When God’s way is in the sea, so that He cannot be traced, yet we are sure His way is in the sanctuary, so that He may be trusted. (M. Henry)