

DELIVER ME, I PRAY!

Gen 32:9 *Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':*

Gen 32:10 *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.*

Gen 32:11 *Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.*

Gen 32:12 *For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.' "*

The Setting:

- The true story of Jacob, his wives, children and livestock leaving Syria and going back to Israel
- Jacob had **just completed a most difficult parting of company with Laban**. From a position of great anger from Laban in Jacob's departing, Laban proposed a covenant of friendship between them, to which Jacob readily agrees. A heap of stones was raised, to keep up the memory of the event, writing being then not known or little used. The heap of witness- "Mizpah". Neither of us will cross this place to come against the other.
- So Jacob **cannot go north** because of the covenant with Laban
- Also now **from the south comes the report** – "Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him." (Gen. 32:6) - **No place to go! No way out! What do you do?**
- **The need for prayer!!!! Our rule is to call upon God in the time of trouble**. Here is a wonderful example to this rule, and its success encourages us to follow this example.
- It was **now a time of Jacob's trouble**, but **he shall be saved out of it**; and here we have him praying for that salvation, Jer_30:7. In his distress he sought the Lord, and He heard him.
- **Times of fear should be times of prayer; whatever frightens us should drive us to our knees, to our God.**
- Jacob had earlier seen his guard of angels, but note, in his distress, **he now applies to God**, not to them; Nor did he consult Laban's *teraphim*; it was enough for him that he had a God to go to. To Him he addresses himself with all possible solemnity, so running for safety into the name of the Lord,
- **Pro 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe..**
- This prayer is **the more remarkable** because it won Jacob the honor of **being an Israel, a prince with God**, or **governed by God** and the father of the praying remnant, who are hence called *the seed of Jacob*, to whom he never said, *Seek Me in vain*. (Isa 45:19)
- It is indeed **worthwhile to examine what was extraordinary** in this prayer, that it should show us much as to how to pray.
- Notice the address: "**O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me,**"
- This **prayer is remarkable for its simplicity and energy**.
- It is a **model too for prayer**, of which it contains these essential ingredients: -

1. PROPER ADDRESS: Notice the address: "**O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me,**"

2. Deep HUMILITY!

Gen 32:10 *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.*

- We can detect a little change in Jacob's life. This is the first time we have ever heard him say, "I am not worthy of the least of Your mercies."
 - For the first time, he is acknowledging that he might be a sinner in God's sight. There are a great many "Christians" who do not acknowledge that they are sinners?
 - We are all sinners, *saved by grace*. As long as we are in this life, we have that old nature that isn't even fit to go to heaven. And do you know that God is not going to let it go to heaven? Our old nature can't cannot go there.
 - That is the reason God had to give us a new nature; the old one wasn't even fit to repair. Jacob is beginning now to say that he is not worthy.
 - When any man begins to move toward God on that basis, he will find that God will communicate with him.
- Jacob makes this very interesting statement: "*for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.*"
- . " He went over the Jordan with just his walking stick, his staff—that's all he had. Now he is coming back, and he has become two companies. This is Jacob for you.

3. Magnification of God's MERCY!

Gen 32:10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant;

4. MINIMIZING of the evil to which he was exposed!

Gen 32:11 Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.

- Jacob's fear did not make him sink into despair, nor did his prayer make him presume upon God's mercy, without the use of means. **God answers prayers by teaching us to order our affairs.** To pacify Esau, Jacob sent him a present.
- We must not **despair of reconciling ourselves to those most angry** against us.

5. Pleading the PROMISES that God had made to him!

Gen 32:12 For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.' "

- *Gen 28:15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."*
- *Gen 31:3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."*

6. Taking, being ENCOURAGEMENT from what God had already done!

Gen 32:12 For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, ,,,,(v. 10b - for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies)..... and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.' "

- You did deliver me from Laban, though a peaceful parting

SUMMARY:

Whether the need is small or your greatest need - PRAY!!!

- **PROPER ADDRESS** - God our Father, in the name of Jesus, in and through the power of the Holy Spirit!
- **BE HUMBLE**
- **ASK FOR MERCY**
- **DEPRECIATE MY PROBLEM/SITUATION**
- **PLEAD GOD'S PROMISES**
- **BE ENCOURAGED BY WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY DONE**

Holy, Holy, Holy- London Orchestra Festival

*1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.
AMEN!*

Sweet Hour of Prayer – Sandy Patti

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare,
By Thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

I Need Thee Every Hour

*I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like Thine can peace afford.
Refrain:
I need Thee, O I need Thee;/every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.*

Just as I am, Without one Plea

*Just as I am, without one plea,
Just as I am, without one plea,
but that Thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

Turn Your Eyes on Jesus

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace. (3X)*