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August 10, 2014



**Limping Over
the Finish Line!**

***“Leaning on His
Staff”***
Hebrews 11:21

Show video of father
coming out of stands

Types of Trials

Sprint

- Short Term
- Define Start and End
- Microwave

Marathon

- Long Term- Never Ending
- Define Start- Wishing for the End
- Crockpot

Jacob had a Long Term Problem...

....Required a Crockpot Solution

Leaning on Top of Staff

Hebrews 11:21, *By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.*

Often Overlooked Phrase...

“Leaning On Top of Staff”

1st -Look at the Staff...



Staff

Powerful Instrument

Used to...

- Defend Self
- Steady Self
- Remind Self

Leaning on Top of Staff...

Reminded Him of a...



Past to Forget

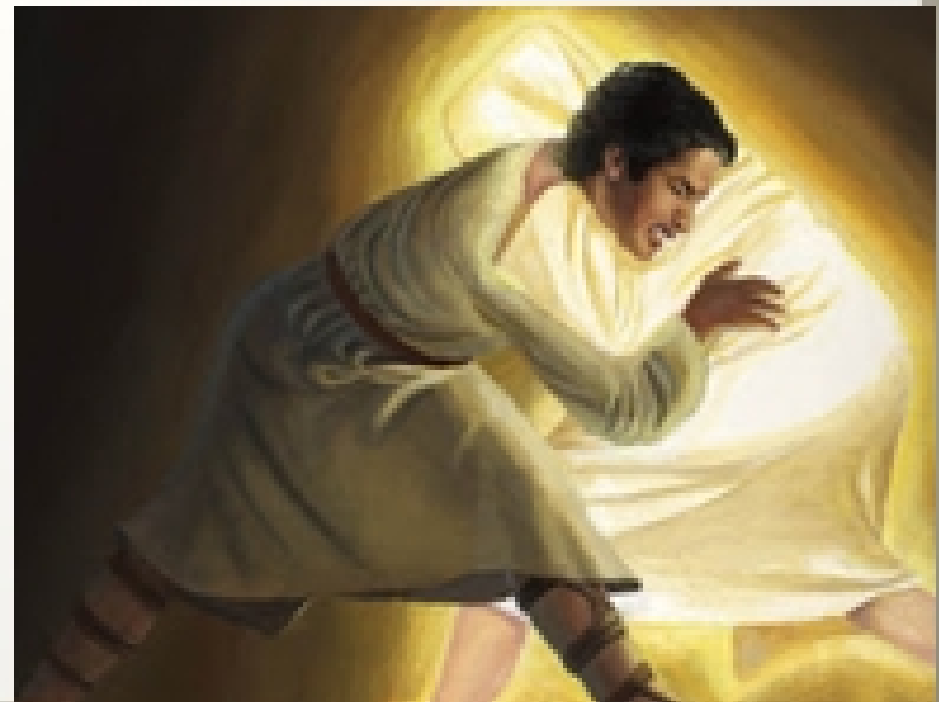
- Before Birth -Wrestled - Gen 25
- Birth "*Heal Catcher*"
- Birth Right- Gen 25
- Blessing- Gen 27
- Betrayed
 - Esau
 - Laban

Promise to Embrace

- **Genesis 28:12-15**
- *He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."*
- **Genesis 28:20-22**
- *Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's household, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth"*

Problem to Deal with -Genesis 32

- Mahanaim= *2 camps- armies*
 - Laban(*behind*) = Esau(*ahead*) about to Collide
- Jabbok =*passing over-struggle-to empty -pour out*
 - 20 yrs of patient activity by God Coming to Head
 - Wrestling Match
 - Hip Damaged
- New Beginning
 - New Name
 - New Walk-Limp
 - New Dependence
 - New Freedom

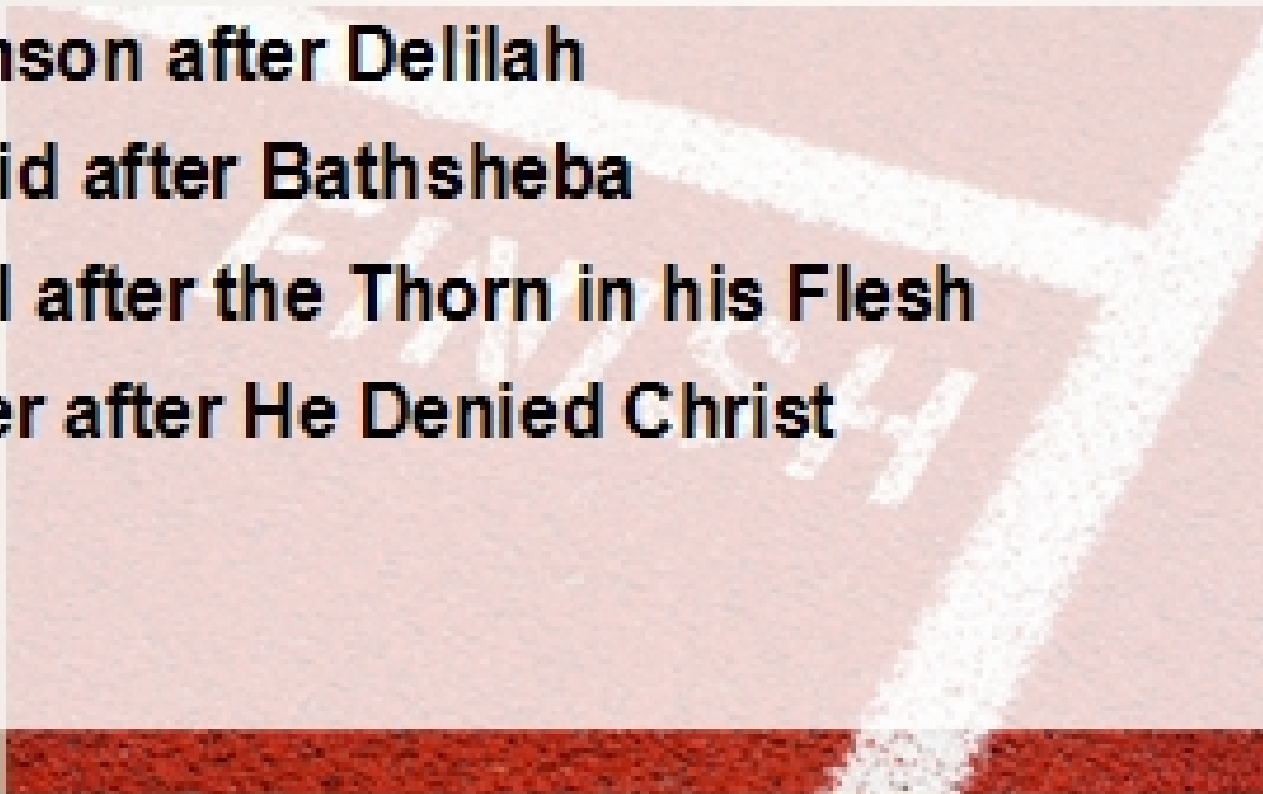


Lessons from a Limp

- 1- **God will Protect you, but not Pamper You (32:1-23)**
 - **Faith doesn't Need Pampering but Challenge**
- 2- **God will Hurt You, but not Harm You (32:24-26)**
 - Jacob has a confrontation with God
 - Jacob crippled-can't run away-only hope now is God.
 - **Faith needs us to Surrender to God**
- 3- **God will Break You, but Desires to Bless You (27-31)**
 - He is no longer Jacob but Israel.
 - Jacob had to admit that he was (conniver).
 - Jacob had been broken, so that could be blessed
 - **Then you will Learn to Lean on God**

Others Who Limped over the Finish Line

- Adam after the Forbidden Fruit
- Samson after Delilah
- David after Bathsheba
- Paul after the Thorn in his Flesh
- Peter after He Denied Christ



Leaning on Top of Staff

For the Rest of His Life Reminds Him...

- Past Overcome
- Promise Kept
- Power Released
- Peaceful Dependence

He Didn't Run Over the Finish Line but Limped...

...God Helping Him Every Step of the Way



Leaning on Top of Staff

Thank God for My Limp!

