

Reading: Genesis 28:10-22

Topic: Turning Points

INTRODUCTION: The destiny of most individuals is determined by the _____ they have made at critical _____ in their lives, some for the good and others for the bad.

I. JACOB:

A. His Beginning:

1. Jacob was born as a twin to his _____ Esau, and was the younger by seconds of the two boys born to Isaac and Rebekah. Gen. 25:24-26
2. The two boys, though they were twins, were very _____ in character and in choices of life-style, with Esau being a hunter and outdoor man, while Jacob was an in _____ fellow. Gen. 25:27
3. Esau was the favorite son of his _____ while Jacob was the favorite son of His _____, which formed the behavior of the two men in different directions. Gen. 25:28

B. His Trouble:

1. Jacob learned some underhanded behavior that made him get _____ of his brother by taking advantage of Esau's weakness and impulsiveness in a difficult _____ to get the birthright. Gen. 25:29-34
2. Jacob and his mother conspired to steal the blessing of the eldest son by his _____ Isaac through a plan of lying and deception that _____ the elderly man because of his blindness. Gen. 27:1-4
3. Though the plan of deception _____, the end result of the plan was something that they did not anticipate, and the anger of _____ was so great that he purposed to kill Jacob. Gen. 27:41,42

II. TURNING POINT # 1:

A. Running Away:

1. When trouble and crisis come into our lives, our first impulse is to devise a _____ of escape, thinking that running away is the best _____ to our problems.
2. Jacob's mother recognized the _____ that Jacob was in, so she arranged to send him away back to her own relatives in the land of Haran, where he could be _____ from his brother's wrath.

B. Encounter With God:

1. While on his journey to flee from Esau, Jacob finds a place to _____ for the night, and then made a bed upon the ground to _____ his weary body. Gen. 28:10,11
2. While Jacob is sleeping, God appears to him in a _____ and speaks audibly to Jacob, giving him a promise that had been made to both his _____, Isaac and his grandfather, Abraham. Gen. 28:12-15
3. This supernatural encounter with God was so powerful that it was the first major turning _____ in Jacob's life and brought him to acknowledge God and to make a _____ to Him. Gen. 28:16-22

III. THE NEW LIFE IN HARAN:

A. Reaping What He Sowed:

1. Jacob's new life in Haran did not get easy for him as he probably had _____, for now he has to work outdoors as a herdsman, looking after uncle Laban's livestock.
2. Jacob falls in love with Laban's daughter Rachel and asks to _____ her, and Laban agrees as long as Jacob works seven years to _____ her.
3. At the end of the seven years, Jacob requests the marriage and is _____ by his uncle and is given the older daughter instead and now has to work another _____ years to get Rachel. Gen. 29:21-27

B. Family Life & Problems:

1. Jacob's family begins to grow as he has several _____, and he continues to work for Laban, not under the best of conditions. Gen. 31:7
2. Jacob desires to return _____ to his own country and family again, but Laban does not want him to leave, because Jacob has caused him to _____. Gen. 30:25-27
3. God speaks to Jacob clearly in another _____, instructing him to go back to his own country and kindred again. Gen. 31:11-13

IV. TURNING POINT # 2

A. The Journey Home:

1. Jacob makes his way back to his own _____, and after an encounter with Laban who pursued him, he continues on his journey to meet his _____. Gen. 32:3
2. When messengers that are sent to Esau return to Jacob, they bring the _____ that Esau is coming to meet Jacob with _____ hundred men. Gen. 32:6

B. Desperation Brings Victory:

1. The desperate situation causes Jacob to cry out to God in _____, asking for help and direction in the situation that he finds himself in. Gen. 32:9-12
2. Jacob prepares presents for his brother, then sends everyone over the Jabbok stream and he is _____ with God and wrestles with Him the _____ night.
3. After a night of wrestling with God, Jacob is forced to face himself when God asks him to say his _____ which was a confession of who he really was, then God _____ him and his name. Gen. 32:26-28
4. This was the major turning point of Jacob's life as he allowed God to _____ him in their face to face encounter, and it _____ Jacob forever. Gen. 32:30

CONCLUSION: As much as we do not appreciate difficult _____ in our lives, it is often in those times and situations that God brings major turning points of victory to our _____.