

## **Genesis 33 New American Standard Bible**

### **Jacob Meets Esau**

Then Jacob raised his eyes and looked, and behold, Esau was coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel, and the two slave women. <sup>2</sup> He put the slave women and their children in front, and Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. <sup>3</sup> But he himself passed on ahead of them and bowed down to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

<sup>4</sup> Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. <sup>5</sup> He raised his eyes and saw the women and the children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." <sup>6</sup> Then the slave women came forward with their children, and they bowed down.

<sup>7</sup> And Leah likewise came forward with her children, and they bowed down; and afterward Joseph came forward with Rachel, and they bowed down. <sup>8</sup> And he said, "What do you mean by all this company which I have met?" And he said, "To find favour in the sight of my lord." <sup>9</sup> But Esau said, "I have plenty, my brother; let what you have be your own."

<sup>10</sup> Jacob said, "No, please, if now I have found favour in your sight, then accept my gift from my hand, for I see your face as one sees the face of God, and you have received me favourably. <sup>11</sup> Please accept my gift which has been brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me and because I have plenty." So he urged him, and he accepted *it*.

<sup>12</sup> Then Esau said, "Let's journey on and go, and I will go ahead of you." <sup>13</sup> But he said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds that are nursing are a matter of concern to me. And if they are driven hard *just* one day, all the flocks will die. <sup>14</sup> Please let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will proceed at my leisure, at the pace of the cattle that are ahead of me and at the pace of the children, until I come to my lord at Seir."

<sup>15</sup> Then Esau said, "Please let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favour in the sight of my lord." <sup>16</sup> So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. <sup>17</sup> But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built for himself a house and made booths for his livestock; therefore the place is named Succoth.

### **Jacob Settles in Shechem**

<sup>18</sup> Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram, and camped before the city. <sup>19</sup> He bought the plot of land where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred <sup>[1]</sup>pieces of money. <sup>20</sup> Then he erected there an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

### **We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

1. What questions were provoked within you?
2. Did anything confuse you?
3. Did anything move you emotionally?
4. Did God instruct you to do something?
5. Did you gain any insight into God's character?

## **Pauls observations and insights**

1. Jacob saw what he thought was a problem coming towards him so he took evasive action. Was he right to do so?
2. Why did Jacob divide the wives and children in the way that he did?
3. It would appear that the ones he loved most he kept at the back.
4. Why did Jacob bow down seven times on his approach to Esau?
5. It was Esau who broke the tension first, he ran and he embraced and kissed his brother.
6. Is this embrace not like the embrace of God on the return of the prodigal?
7. Why do we cry?
8. Esau saw the children, his nephews and nieces, his response was just like an uncle who declares 'who do we have here then?'
9. The whole family pay Esau respect by bowing down and greeting him.
10. Esau is perplexed as he remembers all the people he passed to get to Jacob.
11. Jacob offers his explanation and hints at the last time the two boys were together.
12. Esau seems to be grown up from his reckless, youthful impetuence. He declines Jacob's gifts.
13. Why does Jacob insist that Esau accepts the gifts?
14. For Jacob he is still looking for reassurance that all is still well with the two brothers.
15. Why does Jacob liken Esau's face to the face of God?
16. To Jacob the first hurdle of acceptance was over, but Esau takes him on another journey.
17. I will stay with you says Esau and we will make our way together, but Jacob is uneasy about the travelling arrangements – why?
18. Jacob reasons his way free, something he was good at doing.
19. He suggests to his brother Esau he go on ahead while he make his way later. Why is Jacob uneasy?
20. Esau agrees on the destination, they are heading for Seir.
21. Again Esau attempts to stay with Jacob while leaving his men with the family, but Jacob wiggles his way even from this.
22. While Esau makes his way to Sere, Jacob makes his way to Succoth. Why?
23. When Jacob arrives at Succoth he builds a house, which means his intention is to set up home and put down roots.
24. How do you think Esau felt when Jacob never arrived at Seir?
25. Jacob buys a piece of land which holds some precious memories for him.
26. Jacob builds an altar to remember his past experiences. Why do we do this?