



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

“Perfected, Not Perfect”

Points from Sunday’s Message

Point 1 - God loves us enough that He will bring us to a place where none of what we have put our trust in can save us.

Point 2 - We inherit patterns — some good, many not — and we repeat them and pass them down. These patterns don’t just get passed down, they come back around.

Point 3 - Family history hands us both good and bad. Maturing in Christ is learning to keep the good our families modeled and to stop carrying the rest.

Point 4 - The blessing came not when Jacob got strong, but when he let go of what he was carrying and held on to God.

Point 5 - Our call is not to be perfect, but to be perfected by God as we follow Him.

Key Verse:

"I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

—Philippians 1:6

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Jacob ends up completely alone** at the river, with everything he owns and everyone he loves sent across to the other side — and none of it could fix the problem in front of him. Pastor Jason said, "God loves us enough that he will bring us to a place where none of what we have put our trust in can save us." What are the things you tend to lean on for security instead of God (money, competence, relationships, control)? Can you name a season when God let one of those run out?

Further Reading: Psalm 20:7; Jeremiah 17:5–8

- 2. Before getting too hard on Jacob**, the message walked through his whole family — Terah's partial obedience, Abraham's fear and deception, Isaac's favoritism, Rebecca's scheming, Laban's manipulation — and noted that "we inherit patterns, some good,

many not, and we often repeat them and pass them down." What's one good pattern your family handed you that's worth keeping, and one pattern you can feel yourself tempted to repeat? What would it look like this week to "stop carrying the rest"?

Further Reading: Exodus 34:6–7; Ezekiel 18:14–20; 2 Timothy 1:5

3. Pastor Jason said, "We can't take hold of something new if our hands are full of the past," and pointed to Paul "forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead." He was careful to say this isn't pretending the past didn't happen — it's refusing to let it set the direction of your life. What's something from your past that's still gripping the wheel? What's the difference between honestly acknowledging it and letting it steer?

Further Reading: Philippians 3:7–14; Hebrews 12:1–2

4. Pastor Jason pointed out that "love keeps no record of wrongs" cuts in a direction we rarely apply it — toward the record we keep against *ourselves*. He admitted there are things in his own history that, if he dwells on them, could keep him from following Jesus with vigor. Is there a wrong you've done that you keep replaying, and how is it slowing you down? What would it change about this week to actually believe God is no longer keeping that record?

Further Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:4–7; Romans 8:1; 1 John 1:9

5. With nothing left to bargain with, Jacob still grabs hold and says, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" — and the message framed that bold, almost presumptuous demand not as the opposite of God's will but as exactly what God invites. How do you usually approach God when you need something — timidly, hedging, half-expecting a no? What's one prayer where you've been holding back that you could bring boldly to the throne of grace?

Further Reading: Lamentations 3:21–23; Hebrews 4:14–16

6. The dime on the desk was worn smooth and ugly but worth far more than the shiny ones, because the value was the silver inside, not the shine on the outside. Pastor Jason drew the line between *perfect* (a standard we chase on our own effort, that always fails) and *perfected* (a process God does in us over a lifetime as we follow Him) — and warned against telling people to clean up *before* they come. Where do you feel pressure to "look like a good dime" before you let God near you? What changes when you believe transformation is the *fruit* of following Jesus rather than the entry fee?

Further Reading: Romans 12:1–2; Philippians 1:3–6; 2 Corinthians 3:18

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.