

“WISDOM WITH PEOPLE”

Gen 33:12-16

Garbage strike - NY: 1 man would wrap his garbage in gift wrap/leave on the step: People would steal it! This man understood human nature. Story: Jacob doesn't trust/makes excuses. But he demonstrates wisdom with his flock/young ones. Picture of being wise with new people/young converts.

I. DIFFERENT DESTINIES

- A. Our story shows contrasts: Jacob & Esau 2 brothers from the same family – but they are completely different
 - 1. One has birthright - blessing/authority – the other has no birthright - blessing/authority
 - 2. This is true of ministry and effectiveness: Same fellowship/church family – but they are not the same
 - a. One is effective/the other is not 2. One is fruitful/the other is not 3. One has converts/the other does not
- B. The problem is we always want to make this a mystery: No idea why...
 - 1. Scrip small story gives insight into difference in destinies *How do we treat the young? Weak/new converts*
- C. Jacob is demonstrating wisdom with people: He has people skills!
 - 1. Many people overlook wisdom with people/people skills: Not important/unspiritual
 - a. All I need to do is fast & pray/work hard – and God will do the rest!
 - 3. But the natural affects the spiritual: Lack of understanding can hurt the good work that you are doing

II. CARING FOR THE YOUNG

- 1. **AWARENESS:** Esau is a picture of a man who is not wise – does not make wise decisions
- A. In his mind the only issue is the destination: We're going some place - Seir
 - 1. *So if that's where we're going/what we want – the only issue is LET'S GO!!*
- B. Jacob a picture of wisdom with people: The foundation of success in working with people is **awareness**
 - 1. *Gen 33:13 But Jacob said to him, "My master, you know that the children are weak. And I must be careful with my flocks and their young ones. If I force them to go too far in one day, all the animals will die.*
 - 2. I know some things about young ones... Social awareness *People too close – no social awareness*
 - a. *Social Intelligence: "the ability to understand and manage people, to act wisely in human relations"*
 - 3. This is often the difference between success/failure
 - a. *Esau lost out on important things – he didn't read people correctly/upset parents, etc.*
 - b. *Jacob gains the favor/blessing of God; This was connected to people skills!*
- C. Some areas of people awareness
 - 1. **Knowing who you're dealing with:** My young children/my herds...can't handle it
 - a. *Prov 27:23 Be sure you know how your sheep are doing, and pay attention to the condition of your cattle.*
 - 1. Young vs. old 2. NC vs. Seasoned 3. Racial/cultural 4. Current issues/challenges
 - 3. **Hearing from God:** God may speak to you about your people at certain times
 - a. Sensitivity: Not yet... b. Direction at certain times c. *Paul: I have things to say – you're not able to bear*
 - 1. *Isaiah 50:4 "The Lord GOD has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned.*

2. PACE: When we have a destination mind – there is eagerness in our desire

- A. The temptation is to hurry: *Gen 33:12 Then Esau said, "Let us be going... Let's do what needs to be done – right now!*
- B. But Jacob recognizes the reality of pace: Different people move at different speeds!
 - 1. Esau's warriors can go fast all day long 2. Jacob has young children/animals: They can't move that fast!
 - 2. It is possible to do harm by moving too quickly! *Pioneer pastor/5 weeks: You've gotta die! I don't think I'm ready to die*
 - a. *I've given too much too soon – we have lost people we didn't need to lose.*
 - 3. Wisdom finds the pace people can move at – and flows with that: *Playing squash w/Mike Cooke*
- 3. **PERSONNEL:** The truth is that taking people somewhere takes work: And we often need help
 - a. Esau offers some people to help him: *V15 let me leave you some people to help you...*
- B. But Jacob refused this offer: He knew that some people will not be a help – but will actually hurt the young!
 - 1. *Allowing crazy people to give your new people a ride home: Allowing crazy to get rides with new people*
 - a. *Who do you allow to do follow up? Religious? Convert-killers? Some we maneuver around Some we forbid*
 - b. *Opposite sex: Giving rides/out to dinner*

III. THE GOD OF ISRAEL

- A. This must be more than techniques (salesmanship) We need a miracle of God!
 - 1. Revelation: God to open eyes *Acts 16: Lydia: Whose heart the Lord had opened... b. Matt 16: I will build my church!*
- B. Our decisions trigger God's involvement: God pleased w/those who are wise with people and care for people
 - 1. When He sees someone who will be wise and care for His sheep – He helps/brings them!
- C. Jacob saw this miracle dimension at work in fruitfulness: Rods in drinking troughs...NO! God got involved
 - 1. Boaz (a type of Christ) had the men throw down handfuls on purpose
 - a. Blessings not connected with their labors – simply because I love them!