

Sunday Gathering Liturgy

Learning to Limp, Genesis
32:1-32 - Bradley Bell

July 11, 2021

Genesis 25-36: Learning to
Limp

Call to Worship - Hosea 12:3-6

Well church, it's the middle of the summer, and many of us are checked out, burned out, or sweated out (maybe all three!). But today we are arriving at the most important part of our sermon series in the story of Jacob. So I want to call you to check back in, to move your heart from ready-to-chill to ready-to-wrestle. There is something the Spirit wants to do today. The prophet Hosea says this of Jacob and the people that came from him, Israel:

3 In the womb he took his brother by the heel,
and in his manhood he strove with God.

4 He strove with the angel and prevailed;
he wept and sought his favor.

He met God at Bethel,
and there God spoke with us—

5 the Lord, the God of hosts,
the Lord is his memorial name:

6 "So you, by the help of your God, return,
hold fast to love and justice,
and wait continually for your God." Hosea 12:3-6

I know summer is the time to take it easy, but by the help of your God, return and wait for him right now. Instead of it just being another Sunday, let's face our foes today, and win.

Always

Confession - John 15:1-2

In the Gospel of John we read these famous words of Jesus:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. John 15:1-2

This is really easy to miss: Jesus tells us here that the way he helps his followers to grow is by pruning them—that means literally cutting things away from them. Church, if we don't admit that this is a normal part of the Christian life, then when God starts cutting, we'll start running.

In just a moment we're going to be admitting this together in the form of a song. It's a song we've never sung at Antioch. It was written by John Newton, the same man who wrote Amazing Grace. The story goes that his close friend and fellow pastor William Cowper was in the midst of yet another deep pit of depression, and Newton wondered how God could start cutting again on a man who loved him so much. This raw and yet beautiful hymn was the answer. I want to read these lyrics to you before we sing:

I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith and love and ev'ry grace,
Might more of His salvation know,
And seek more earnestly His face.

'Twas He who taught me thus to pray,
And He, I trust, has answered prayer,
But it has been in such a way
As almost drove me to despair.

I hoped that in some favored hour
At once He'd answer my request
And, by His love's constraining pow'r,
Subdue my sins and give me rest.

Instead of this, He made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart
And let the angry pow'rs of hell
Assault my soul in ev'ry part.

Yea, more with His own hand He seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe,
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Humbled my heart and laid me low.

"Lord, why is this," I trembling cried;
"Wilt Thou pursue Thy worm to death?"
"Tis in this way," the Lord replied,
"I answer prayer for grace and faith."

"These inward trials I employ
From self and pride to set thee free
And break thy schemes of earthly joy
That thou may'st find thy all in Me."

Now let's confess this truth as we sing...

I Asked The Lord That I Might Grow

Psalm 46 (Lord Of Hosts)

Sermon - Genesis 32:1-32

Communion - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

All I Have Is Yours

Goodness Of God

Announcements & Benediction - Isaiah 53:6

Thank you for joining us in today's gathering!

Giving - While we are sharing a few important next-step announcements, we are going to pass our giving baskets. Church, the giving of our finances to the work of the church is an important part of how we worship God. If you're a member of Antioch we ask you to give generously and cheerfully. If you're a visitor we ask you fill out a visitor card from the basket and give it to one of us at the end of the gathering. And if you're not a Christian, we're not asking for your money—this gathering is our gift to you!

Family Groups - Also, this gathering is only one part of the life of Antioch. We would love to have you in one of our small groups that we call Family Groups, which meet in our homes. There is more info at the visitor entrance and on our website, but better yet talk to one of us.

9 AM classes - Next Sunday we will be kicking off a four-week class titled "Theology of Work and Money". Work and money are two of the most impactful parts of our lives, but are often viewed outside the scope of the Christian life. Pastor Jason will lead participants to learn and apply what the Bible says about work and money, including their relationship to one another and to God. So jump in!

Family Meeting - Tonight is our Family Meeting, which is a business meeting for our covenant members. It will take place here at the building at 5pm. This afternoon there will be two documents emailed for your review prior to the meeting. Childcare will be provided. This will take the place of your usual Family Group meetings this week (unless you just wanna meet anyway!).

Food Pantry - This coming Saturday is Food Pantry, which is the central part of our mercy ministry here at Antioch and a great way to serve and build relationships with our neighbors. We need volunteers to arrive at 9:30 (and if you're able to help with pickup on Friday, please see Bill Stayton).

We begin each gathering with a call to worship and we end with a benediction, which is a reminder that we have been blessed to be a blessing. If you would like to receive this benediction, I invite you to open your hands before you.

Church, Jesus Christ took the full weight of God's wrath, so that you could take just the touch. May you go crippled but not killed, showing a world that just wants to win how to face God and lose. (based on Isaiah 53:6)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let's say this together: We are sent.
