

AVELEIGH 'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE
Memorial Day Weekend Veterans Recognition Sunday
May 27 2018

Sermon: JACOB: HOW TO GET THROUGH WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH
TEXT: Res. PS.142 p.674 & Genesis 33:22-31 p. 36

PART 1:LIFE IS A STRUGGLE

1. WE STRUGGLE OTHER PEOPLE

"Because you (sinned)... all your life you will struggle." Gen. 3:17 (NLT)

Jacob struggled:	with his brother	Gen 25:22, Hosea 12:3
	with two wives	Gen. 30:1-24
	with his in-laws	Gen. 31:1-2
	with his 12 sons	Gen. 37-50

2. WE STRUGGLE OURSELF

"I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate... No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't...But there is a law at work within me that is at war with my mind." Romans 7:15-23 (NLT)

3. OUR REAL STRUGGLE IS WITH GOD "*Jacob struggled with God.*" Hosea 12:3b

4. JACOB'S WRESTLING MATCH;

"Jacob sent his family across the Jabbok River but he stayed behind, alone. That night, a Man came and wrestled with him until daybreak. When the Man saw that he wasn't winning the struggle, he hit Jacob on the hip, and it was thrown out of joint. The Man said, 'Let me go; daylight is coming.' Jacob said, 'I WON'T LET GO UNTIL YOU BLESS ME.'

The Man asked 'What is your name?' 'Jacob,' he replied. The Man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob. You have STRUGGLED WITH GOD and with men, and you have WON; so your name will be ISRAEL.'

Jacob means "deceiver/manipulator"

Israel means both "struggled with God /Prince with God"

Then God blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.'" Genesis 32:23-30

PART 2: TO WRESTLE WITH GOD is the PRAYER OF LAMENT or C.A.R.E.

1. C “COMPLAINT”

Examples: Job – Job 13; 14-25, Heman – Psalm 88, Jeremiah – Jeremiah 12:1-4

*“I call to the Lord for help; I plead with him. I bring all **my complaints** to him; I tell him my troubles. When I’m ready to give up, he knows what I should do.”* Psalm 142:1-3 (TEV)

2. A “APPEAL”

Examples: Abraham – Genesis 18:22-32

Moses – Exodus 32:9-14, Hezekiah – 1 Kings 19:15-19

David – Psalm 143, Jehoshaphat – 2 Chronicles 20

3. R “REMIND”

“Then Jacob prayed, ‘O God of my grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac— you told me to return to my land and to my relatives, and you promised to treat me kindly. I am not worthy of all the faithfulness and unfailing love... but O Lord, please rescue me from my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to kill me... But you promised to treat me kindly and to multiply my descendants...’” Genesis 32:9-12 (NLT)

4. E “EXPRESS”

“Though he slay me, yet I will trust in him.” Job 13:15

“Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vine; and even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; and even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will still rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. The Sovereign Lord is my strength!” Hab. 3:17-19 (NLT)

CONCLUSION: All God’s Giants walk with a limp, but they got through what they were going through and so will you.

Prayer; Dear God, you know all the things we struggle with – our fears, our weakness, our relationships. You know the regrets we struggle with. God, today I’ve realized that all our struggles are really rooted in our struggle with you. We ask to end this struggle. Lord, just help us get through what we are going through. Amen

FOUR FOR THE ROAD: 1, What do you remember about today’s sermon?

2. Why did that speak to you?

3. What have you been going through? Or, those around you been going through?

4. How could what you remembered from today’s sermon assist you and yours, “to get through what you are going through?”

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Call to Worship

One: Let us begin our time of worship with a moment of remembrance.

All: We remember fallen soldiers, and the sacrifice they made for the sake of others.

One: Let us begin our time of worship with a moment of thanksgiving.

All: We thank God for brave men and women that have given their lives so that we may worship without fear.

One: Let us begin our time of worship with a moment of silence; for a moment is the least we can do for those that gave their eternity.

After a silent moment I will light the red white blue candles

I ll as ask vets to stand and be recognized,,,,,next we sing the first hymn,,,,,

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, God of manna in the desert, God who nourished a hungry crowd with loaves and fishes, we admit that we struggle to trust your abundance. We hoard what we have because it makes us feel secure. We keep score within our relationships, filing away mental tallies of our own good works and the shortcomings of others. We are happy to follow Christ — to a point. And when confronted by the gospel or challenged in our complacency, we make excuses and wrestle with your calling. Forgive us, O God. Help us to trust your grace that defies logic; help us to live in your extravagant love and boundless mercy. Give us the will to live all of life in service to you, our strength and Redeemer. Amen.