



Series: Genesis

Passage: Genesis 31:22-55

Title: Jacob's Conflict (Part 2)

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 3/5/2023

Discussion Starter – What lessons have you learned about passive aggressive behavior from these past two sermons to better resolve conflicts in your own life?

1. Why do you think Jacob convinced himself to leave without telling Laban? How is this an example of passive aggressive behavior?
2. What lessons do we learn about putting off or avoiding confrontation as Jacob has demonstrated? What important thing did Jacob forget about Laban?
3. What do you think was going on in Jacob's mind as he was fleeing from Laban? *What freedom do you gain by confronting things head on and being in God's will?*
4. *What comfort can you personally gain from God speaking to Laban in this dream?*
5. Do you think Laban has a right to be upset at Jacob? What are both Laban and Jacob not realizing about their actions? What do you see has happened between Jacob and Laban as a result of Jacob's passive aggressive behavior?
6. *Is there a conflict in a relationship in your life that you feel God is calling you to confront head on?*
7. *Reflect on what "gods" vie for your attention. Are there any "gods" in your life that can be "stolen"? How can we determine whether something in our lives is something we simply enjoy or whether it has become a "god" in our lives?*
8. What could have been revealed about Laban's character if Jacob would have stayed and talked to Laban instead of secretly leaving? Do you think Laban would have respected Jacob's wishes to return to his family and have a going away party or do you think he would have tried to keep him there longer?
9. Jacob did not get a chance to find out what Laban would have done. He took the easier path. What are the two paths Jesus said there were in life? What is the main characteristic of each path?
10. Read John 3:19-21. *Describe Jacob and Laban's behaviors in light of this passage. Why does God call us to "walk in the light"?*
11. What is the most important part of conflict resolution? Read Proverbs 18:13. Why is this so important? What is Laban's paradigm? What is Jacob's paradigm? *Is there someone you are having conflict with? What is their paradigm?*
12. Read Proverbs 6:30. *What is the wisdom of this passage as it relates to looking at conflicts in our relationships?*
13. Read 1 John 4:20. Describe in your own words what this passage is teaching us?