

**Theme: JACOB’S DISTRESS & PERPLEXITY**

**Memory Verse:** *Isaiah 25:4 “For thou hast been strength to the poor, strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.”*

**Texts:** Genesis 32:6-8; Psalm 120:6-7

Jacob was approaching home. He remembered his brother’s anger against him and went for peace. Jacob evidently had the promises of God. He could see the inheritance clearly in his reach, yet he humbled himself and sought peace with his brother. How many of us in positions of advantage can apologize to those below us? Are we still pursuing peace in the church? Is restitution for new converts only? How many believers make restitution today – leaders to members, husbands to wives, parents to children, masters or mistresses to servants and maids, believers to unbelievers? Let us examine ourselves and learn from Jacob.

In sending the messengers ahead of him, Jacob probably wanted to “test the waters”. But the report the men brought was not cheering. Esau was still committed to his view of twenty years ago. Was Esau right to be angry for 20 years? Why did he not accept the pleas of Jacob? Believers should not bear grudge for whatever reason. We are not to allow the sun to go down on our wrath or to bottle up grudge for days (Ephesians 4:26). We are to forgive freely even when those that offended us refuse to apologise (Ephesians 4:31, 32).

Maybe for Esau, Jacob’s restitution was not sufficient for the offence. After all, God commands full restoration of that which is taken violently or deceitfully (Leviticus 6:1-5; Genesis 20:2, 3, 7, 14). Can the offer of cattle exchange for eternal inheritance? Esau knew the difference, but it was too late. Was it possible for Jacob to return the birthright? Definitely no. However, for believers today, God expects us to give up positions obtained deceitfully, employment obtained with fake certificates, promotions obtained with false declarations. Where we have outwitted people of their entitlements or supplanted others, we must make right our ways. We cannot hold on to those advantages obtained through blackmail, manipulations, deceit or falsehood and claim to be right with God.

	<b>DAILY BIBLE READING</b>	
	<b>MORNING</b>	<b>EVENING</b>
SUNDAY	Psalms 124	Psalms 125
MONDAY	Psalms 126	Psalms 127
TUESDAY	Psalms 128	Psalms 129
WEDNESDAY	Psalms 130	Psalms 131
THURSDAY	Psalms 132	Psalms 133
FRIDAY	Psalms 134	Psalms 135
SATURDAY	Psalms 136	Psalms 137