

Theme: JACOB'S CONCERN FOR THE WEAK

Memory Verse: *Acts 20:35 "I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

Texts: Genesis 33:12-17; John 10:11-14; Romans 15:1-3

With reconciliation completed, it was time to move on. Esau, a man of the field and always on the move, wanted Jacob to come along immediately. But Jacob, a good family man and a shepherd, was concerned for the women, children and the flocks and herds with their young. Jacob knew that all that were with him could not walk or move at the same pace. This teaches all believers, especially leaders to know the state of their flock at all times.

Ministers are admonished to be diligent to know the state of their flocks and to look well to their herds (Proverbs 27:23). Jacob knew the state of his household and flocks because he watched over his flock; he laboured hard over the flock; and was a considerate and gentle shepherd; he lived with his Family and flock. Jacob's family was made up of women and children. Some of the women, though "weaker vessels", were even with children and Rachel was probably pregnant at that time. The cattle and herds were with young ones also. Jacob said if they were over-driven, they would die. It was necessary to move at the pace of the weaker ones. Like Jacob, every minister should know that his congregation is made up of people of different levels of spirituality.

There are spiritual children, young men and fathers (1 John 2:12-14). If we drive the little children (the new converts and spiritually immature) like the fathers (spiritually mature), they may be discouraged and go back to the world or die spiritually. While not condoning sin, leaders should be gentle and patient; not so aggressive and militant as to scare the members away. Esau was leading 400 men of war but Jacob was looking after a group of men, women, children, and cattle with the young. Esau left Jacob behind with his flock. Jacob journeyed gently on and came to Succoth where he built a house for himself and family and booths for the animals. To avoid moving at the pace of Esau, every leader should know the state of his flock. A pastor is different from a prayer warrior leader. Good shepherds must watch to ensure the weak and feeble are not destroyed in the way. Christ died for all and every soul is precious in His sight.

	DAILY BIBLE READING	
	MORNING	EVENING
SUNDAY	Isaiah 34	Isaiah 35
MONDAY	Isaiah 36	Isaiah 37
TUESDAY	Isaiah 38	Isaiah 39
WEDNESDAY	Isaiah 40	Isaiah 41
THURSDAY	Isaiah 42	Isaiah 43
FRIDAY	Isaiah 44	Isaiah 45
SATURDAY	Isaiah 46	Isaiah 47