**THE NIGHT JACOB OBTAINED MERCY**

***Written By: Bro. Tommy Romans – November 2014***

There is only one place in the whole Bible that you will find **Unworthy** and **Mercy** together. To me it is amazing they appear in just one scripture.

**GEN. 32:9** – And Jacob said, O God: **Vs. 10** – I am not Worthy of the least of all thy Mercies, and of all thy Truth, which thou hast showed unto thy servant. **Vs. 11** – Deliver me!

 These were the words uttered by Jacob when facing the guilt of his past! He was crying out to God for Mercy. “O God, I am so Unworthy, but I need your help! I need your Mercy!”

 Twenty long years had passed since he had lied to his father and cheated and swindled his twin brother Esau out of the family Birthright. He had moved far away, got a job and raised a family. He is now returning back to his beloved Homeland. But there is only one major problem: He had a great fear and dread that laid heavy on his heart. He was getting ready to face his dark past. Yes, he had moved away, prospered and became successful, but he could not outrun his conscience and forget what he had done to his brother.

 I suppose at different times during those 20 years when it was quiet, when he was alone, or maybe trying to fall asleep, he relived it all over again. O how the thought of it all would surface in his mind! Now he is on his journey back home with his family and children in tow. Jacob receives word that Esau is on his way to meet him with 400 men. Esau had made a vow that when their father passed away, he would kill Jacob. Suddenly Jacob’s conscience jolted to life that filled him with a great numbing fear. “What am I going to do?” There was no escaping the Guilt and confrontation.

 Esau was just around the bend. You know the story – Night had fallen. He sent all his family across the brook and he was left alone! Something was getting ready to happen that night that was meant to change Jacob forever and set in motion God’s Divine Will. There met him a man in the middle of the darkness – it was an Angel, a Messenger of God that was sent. He puts himself right in Jacobs reach. (Unworthy meets Mercy!) Jacob realizes his very answer and help is in this

Heavenly being, for it was God come down to him in the form of man!

Jacob grabs hold of him and cries for Mercy. “I know what I’m facing and I know what I’ve done and I can’t go on like this.” “Let me go” said the Angel. But Jacob answered, “I will not let you go until you Bless me!” A wrestling match ensues. To Jacob, it is a matter of life and death. He was desperate! (The Spirit and the Flesh went to war)

 The Bible does not record all that was spoken between Jacob and the Angel during the night long struggle. But if Jacob didn’t get his answer and get deliverance he knew he was sure to die. Jacob took a hold of the Angel and very well could have spoken these words: “Listen, I need help like never before! I’ve carried this name Jacob all my life which means (supplanter, trickster and deceiver). If you don’t help me, I’ll die like this.” The wrestling match went on all night. When the Angel tried to pull away, Jacob held on that much tighter. “No” said Jacob, “I’m not letting you go! I know I’m not worthy, but please have Mercy!”

 Not only was Jacob wrestling with the Angel for a Blessing but he was struggling to escape the guilt of his past that was haunting him. When the day began to break, the Angel threw the hollow of Jacobs thigh out of joint that would leave him with a limp for the rest of his life. It would serve as a reminder how he was humbled, how he had to be broken before deliverance could come. Until he went to the grave, he would always remember that night of struggle that brought him sweet victory.

 Jacob had prevailed! The Angel said to him in parting – “Thy name shall no more be called Jacob (the supplanter), but Israel: for as a Prince thou hast power with God and with men and hast prevailed.” The Unworthy (Jacob) had now obtained Mercy. He got his deliverance and the Angel vanished. It would be a night he would never forget, and thank God, it would take care of 20 long years of Guilt.

 **Gen. 32:30** – And Jacob called the name of the Place (of struggle) Peniel: For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. As a result, God softened Esau’s heart. When Esau saw his twin brother approaching the next day, he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept. Only God can do this!

What can you tell us Jacob? “Well, it took a long time, but eventually I had to face myself. God can

WHEN UNWORTHY MET MERCY

 When I read the story about Jacob and the Angel, the Lord by Inspiration, gave me a little story I made up to share with you. I personified the two words: Unworthy and Mercy and made characters out of them.

**{OUR STORY STARTS}:**

 Unworthy looks into the mirror. It’s early morning. It’s been another long restless night. He can see in his troubled face the toll of his failures. There’s no real peace or contentment, only a sense of dread. The feeling of Unworthiness sweeps over him again that seems to take away all his strength. He dreads another day. He knows it will be the same as yesterday and the day before – the way it’s been now for years. As Unworthy stares into the mirror, he’s not happy with himself. Who’s he really fooling?! Deep within, he carries the mental scars of let down. It’s now left him with low self esteem. He feels he’s just no good to himself or anybody anymore. Not only has he failed, but he has let others down. What is there to really aim or strive for?

 As Unworthy stands there looking into his own eyes, his mind goes back to his childhood when things were pure, and life was innocent. He had a different name then. He use to have goals and dreams, but now look at him! He thinks to himself, “If I could only change who I am and what I have done, but I can’t – I just can’t undo it! I guess I’ll just die and go to my grave a failure. My past haunts me. It’s like a shadow that won’t go away, but is always there to remind me of all my mistakes. No matter how hard I try, I just can’t escape it. Oh if only I could forget and get past my past!”

 As Unworthy leaves his house and walks out the door to face the day he puts on his plastic face once again. It will be the same chores, same old routine with the same old crowd and same people. He will just put on his smile and laughter as usual, but he knows Something is missing inside. No one but he

 change you and change situations when you make that surrender to His Will. You will find in Him Mercy, help and Forgiveness and as a result, problems can be fixed and others will be blessed!”

knows just how bad he is hurting inside. He is full of cracks! He misses the peace he once had. Sometimes it’s all he can do to go on pretending to be something and somebody he’s not!

 Deep within Unworthy, desperation speaks up. His bleeding heart is crying – “Is there any Hope for someone like me?” Something is happening in Unworthy’s soul. A long awaited prayer is now forming. An earnest cry from the heart is uttering itself – “O God, would you please Help Me! I don’t want to go on like this anymore. I’m tired of carrying this heavy load of guilt that I have borne for all these months and years. I must have a change. O God, would you please show me MERCY!”

**{THE STORY NOW CHANGES}:**

 I see another figure entering the picture. He’s a Heavenly visitor and His name is MERCY! The Heavenlies are his home. He’s the Divine Missionary that brings Good News from a far country. Mercy has been on many, many missions – literally millions of them, bringing Hope! His message is always the same: “God loves you! He cares! You may have fallen and failed miserably, but He forgives!”

 This Heavenly being comes from the throne room of God’s presence. He is strong. He never tires. Mercy never gives up nor ever runs out. He is the very nature and attribute of God. He reaches to the lowest of the lows, to the discouraged to the down and outs who have failed or fallen and gives them Hope! Mercy comes with strength and courage in one hand, Grace and Love in the other.

 So God sends Mercy on a most urgent errand.

“Go Mercy, go! Someone is calling out my name. I hear the cry of a broken heart. Take my touch and message to them!”

 Mercy leaves from God’s presence, he passes through the Heavenlies, he descends down to a dark troubled world where the battle for souls are being fought. He knows just where to find Unworthy, for he follows the column of prayer that’s ascending like incense from a burning desperate heart. Unworthy is down on his knees. The room is dimly lit. He’s crying and praying. As he chokes back the tears, he’s saying – “Lord, I am sorry, I’m really sorry that I have failed. I’ve made a mess of my life. Would you please forgive me!”

 A battle is raging in Unworthy’s mind. “Does God still love me? Will He take me back?” He wrestles. The enemy of his soul whispers – “You’ve gone too far Unworthy! God has given up on you.” But he cries – “If only I could feel God’s touch and know everything is alright! Lord, I’ve hit bottom. I’ve reached the end of my rope. I can’t go any farther. I’m giving it all to you!” Unworthy knows it is now or never, it’s victory or defeat, it’s Heaven or Hell. So he musters up the last bit of strength and says – “Lord, I’m broken but I’m willing. I’m ready for a change. Please Help me!”

 Something now wonderful happens. A light begins to shine. It enters the conflict. This Heavenly light grows brighter and brighter. MERCY in all his Glory and strength has just stepped into the room. The atmosphere changes. The depression and gloom begins to lift. A gentle peace that no mortal tongue can describe surrounds Unworthy. It ever so sweetly envelops him with compassion like a fathers big arms. He has reached the place of surrender. “Here I am Lord, Help me! I give it all to you, everything I am and all I have, here it is – I am yours!”

 This visitor from the Glory world, Heaven’s ambassador of Grace is radiating with God’s Divine Love. Mercy reaches out and touches Unworthy. His very presence assists him in his battle and Unworthy is drawing strength from him. He feels something breaking inside. He can’t explain it but something is letting loose of him and it feels good! Confidence is growing in his heart. Unworthy reaches out and by Faith grasps a hold of God’s Word and promises. The chains of his past are now breaking and he’s casting them aside. He cries out – “Yes, Lord! Yes Lord, Yes dear Jesus, I know you love me! I thank you for forgiving me, forgiving all my sins and failures. Praise God for Victory! Hallelujah, my past has been forgiven. My sins are gone, they’re gone and forgotten. I’ve been redeemed! Victory is mine. Now, I know I’m your child Lord! Thank you, thank you for hearing my prayer!

 I would like to say to all my readers: There are many, many just like Unworthy. Could it be you or someone you know? Is there something in your life that is missing? You might try to camouflage it and you might try to hide it, but it’s still there! O how the heart hurts because of let downs! You might try to drown it in alcohol but the pain is still there. Drugs can never erase bad memories, but Jesus’ Blood can! When the drugs and alcohol wears off, it only drives the hurt deeper. Another relationship will not cure your problem. Leaving home, family and friends and moving away is not your answer. You cannot ever run away from it! If you should go across the world, you will still run into yourself. A change of occupation and more money will not buy you happiness. This world and it’s pleasures will never satisfy nor will it ever fill the void and emptiness inside.

THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER - - IT IS **JESUS!** His Mercy will reach you right where you are. No matter how bad you have failed or how far you have fallen – There is Hope! Your sins may be many, they may be dark as night, but the Blood of Jesus will take care of it all. God is speaking to you right now – He forgives! He will never hold your past against you. **MERCY** in all His strength and Glory is standing ready at God’s side, just waiting for you to call! When you cry with all your heart like Jacob, He will come to you with God’s Grace and Love. He will receive you. Find you a place right now and call on God!

I’m glad my God never gave up on me! No one has ever loved me like Jesus has. I am now His forever!

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