

**JACOB CAME TO SHALEM.**  
**ARE WE THERE YET?**  
**Genesis 33**

**INTRODUCTION**

Studying through Genesis, we have had an unfiltered view of Jacob's humanity - both highs and lows. God has Jacob's full sanctification in mind. Sanctification means "to make holy". The Lord uses blessings, trials, afflictions, loss, rejection, and His direct Word of truth to accomplish this work. **John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16-17**. We may be aware of this process in our own lives too, but wonder why it takes so long to complete. Let's study, as **Jacob Came To Shalem**, and consider the question "Are We There Yet?"

**DIGGING DEEPER**

Read through Genesis 33 several times. Having left home 20 years earlier, Jacob is now married with a large family and on his way back home. Exhausted and in great pain, Jacob has wrestled with God all night, and is finally surrendered. A reunion with Esau is coming, and he doesn't know what to expect. As the Lord continues the work of sanctification in Jacob's life, let's follow along and learn. *Selah*

*Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

I. Genesis 33:1-4. The reunion. Jacob bows before Esau, showing he is no threat to him. In their time apart, forgiveness has obviously taken place in both hearts. Jacob and Esau enjoy a sweet reunion. God is glorified in forgiveness and reconciliation.

II. Genesis 33:5-8. The gift. When Jacob left home, he and Esau were bitter rivals. Jacob had prepared this gift to now find grace - favor - in the sight of Esau. Jacob was showing good to his enemy. **Proverbs 25:21-22**. Turn to **Romans 12:17-21** and study this passage prayerfully. Don't pay back, do what is right, let it go and live at peace, let God take care of things. Overcome evil with good. **Leviticus 19:18, 2 Kings 6:18-23, Matthew 5:43-48, 2 Corinthians 13:11.** *Selah*.

III. Genesis 33:9-11. Esau has enough, but Jacob has everything. The brothers have each changed - both were consumed with what they would have and how much they would get. Now both say "I have enough", but different words are used in their expression. Esau says "I have abundance of things", but Jacob says "I have everything I need". Covetousness contrasted with contentment! **Proverbs 27:20, 1 Timothy 6:10, Matthew 6:24, Matthew 19:16-26, Luke 12:15.** Jesus delivers us and satisfies! It is a great day when you can say "I have everything I need."

IV. Genesis 33:12-16. Preferring, accommodating one another. Without selfish ambition or conceit, they "in lowliness of mind, let each esteem others better than himself." Have a heart to accommodate others first. **Philippians 2:3-4.**

V. Genesis 33:17-20. Shalem. **Jacob Came To Shalem** (Shechem NKJV). Shalem means full, complete, whole, peaceful. Up until now in Genesis 34, Jacob gets high marks as the Lord is working holiness into his life. However, Jacob takes a wrong turn here. Rather than continuing all the way back home, Jacob will settle down in Shalem and even erect an altar for a place of sacrifice. Partial obedience is disobedience. **1 Samuel 15:22.** God wants full obedience, not sacrifice.

Shalem (verse 18) is a significant place in Jacob's life. Here he settles, and seeks rest and peace. He has obeyed the Lord partially, but not gone far enough. He really is in a place he shouldn't be. Consequences for this partial obedience - his disobedience - will be devastating to his family. The effect of this move will be seen in chapters ahead. But let's apply Genesis 33 in this study.

**CONSIDER .....** God has sanctification in mind for us all. When will we be complete? **Are We There Yet?** Like Jacob,

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| • There is nothing to worry about. | You have many assurances.    | Jesus is with you .      | <b>Matthew 6:25-34</b> |
| • There is nothing lacking.        | You have all that is needed. | Jesus is enough for you. | <b>Luke 12:22-34</b>   |
| • There is still a long way to go. | You can have confidence.     | Jesus is changing you.   | <b>Philippians 1:6</b> |

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification:... 1 Thessalonians 4:3*

**PRAY .....**

- For a fruitful baptism picnic and wonderful fellowship for the body
- For our vision for each of the pastors in the areas that they minister
- The Lord's mind and heart for you as you minister to those around you each and every day
- That this week we would see our Lord as ENOUGH to meet every one of our needs!
- For the health and safety of our missionary families as they lay it all down for the Lord.