

Intro:

Main Point of Text: While Jacob is alone, God wrestles with him to test his mettle, bless him, and leave His mark.

Sermon Point: *Keep wrestling with God.*

Move 1: God wants to wrestle with you.

Vs. 24: The “man”, God, initiates the wrestling match. Hosea 12:2-5: “angel” is the Lord. Notice there Israel being disciplined. Vs. 30: “God” face-to-face. Jacob has been disciplined and is changing. God will have Him change more. Remind him Who is boss before entering PL. God is your true adversary to get your undivided attention. *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.* (Isa 45:7). Hosea 12:6-7.

Move 2: God controls the match and changes you.

Vss. 27-28, changes name. Vs. 29, won’t share His. Vs. 25, one touch lames. Vs. 29, Heb. “asked”: sense of debtor. Vs. 30, Jacob doesn’t proclaim he prevailed, but was preserved.

Move 3: Wrestling with God will change you for the better.

Vs. 28: “Israel”: “God prevails/commands”. Changes Jacob’s name to be nation’s. God displays tHe will always strive with them for them. Vs. 29: blesses. Vss. 31-32, leaves a mark.

Move 4: You are wise and brave who take on God.

God lets Jacob win, but to encourage him that he will continue to prevail over men by prevailing with God. Hosea 12:3-4. Jacob wins through pain and weeping, physical and spiritual. Was the supplanter, now the one who makes supplication. All night long! He wins/is blessed by clinging to the all-powerful God and simply surviving.

Conclusion:

The wrestling brought Providence into focus, and was God’s response to Jacob’s prayer!

Keep wrestling with God.