

THE BIG IDEA: God wants to turn your moments into a movementThe Take-Off

What marks do you carry? What battle scars can you point to on your body and say, “You have GOT to hear this!”

[Shoulder separation]

Scars tell a story, and in **Genesis 32:22-32** (NIV) we get to peek in on a story being written in the life of a man named Jacob.

Let’s see what we can learn from it.

1. The touch of God changes how we walk

- a. v. 24
 - Wrestling with God is not a team sport
 - Some of us have never experienced the touch of God because we’ve never been alone with God
- b. v. 26
 - Jacob was desperate - so much so that he refused to let go
 - When was the last time you were that desperate for God to come through?
 - We need to learn how to let our desperation in life fuel our desperation for God
- c. v. 31
 - Jacob limped away from the wrestling match
 - He was marked by the touch of God
 - **The touch of God changes how we walk**
 - A little slower, a little more humbly, a lot differently

2. The touch of God changes where we walk

- a. For most of Jacob’s adult life up to this point, he’s lived in fear of his past
- b. He’s avoided his brother because he knew what he’d done to his brother
- c. He’s lived his life walking away from something more than toward something
- d. He’s walked backward instead of forward
- e. In fear instead of in confidence
- f. But the touch of God changes where we walk - the direction in which we’re walking - because it changes our identity
- g. Jacob went from being a deceiver (Jacob) to being an overcomer (Israel)
- h. Some of us have been living more aware of our history than our destiny
- i. The touch of God is a pivot that positions us to move forward in the peace of who we are more than the regret of who we were
- j. **The touch of God changes where we walk**

3. The touch of God changes how others walk after us

- a. This one is key, especially to people in the room returning from mission trips and youth camp
- b. Shoot, it’s important to anyone who has experienced a touch of God and returned to others who haven’t
- c. The temptation is to believe that nothing else has changed, but look at verse 32
- d. **God wants to turn your moment into a movement.**
- e. The touch of God in Jacob’s life changed generations!
- f. Want to shift the course of a nation? Don’t settle for just a moment with God - let God take your moment with him and turn it into a movement for him.
- g. **The touch of God changes how others walk after us**
- h. It just requires walking differently and consistently

The Landing

My body bears the mark of that ski trip. Jacob’s body bore the mark of that wrestling match.

How has the touch of God marked you, and are you willing to walk differently for as long as it takes to see God turn your moment into a movement?

Let’s pray.