



SUNDAY MESSAGE: SIBLING RIVALRY

On Sunday we dove into two run-ins between Jacob and his brother Esau. In each case we see all of Jacob's character on display. He can't help himself, but keeps grasping for more and more of what Esau has, both materially and even spiritually. We can tend to do this as well, especially in a culture as driven by comparison as ours. The amazing thing, as we will continue to see, is that God has been all over this story. Sometimes it seems like God has just abandoned us to our choices. He has given us free will after all. In Jacob's life, even in his shadiest moments like we've been looking at, God has been working in all the fallout to bring Jacob to a place where he can bring revelation.

LADDER SESSION: RIVALS

Pastor CJ went deeper with us to help us really examine our own hearts, particularly with regard to the comparison culture we live in. All around us we see how amazing everyone else's life is thanks to social media where people post their best moments. The challenge is that we can very quickly lose our identity to all these other things when we are supposed to be putting our identity in God alone. The old saying goes, "Comparison is the thief of Joy," and in Jacob's life we see that the things he chased after did not bring him to a place of joy and peace. The more he schemed to get the things and the spiritual inheritance of his brother, the more things turned ugly on the inside for him, and the more things got dangerous for him on the outside. In reality, Jacob had set out to steal what God had already promised to give him, a blessed life. So let's take a look in the mirror once more and allow God to challenge us on what we run after that others might have.

KEY QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever felt pulled into comparison culture?
2. Who have you compared yourself to in your life?
3. Have you ever compared yourself to someone else spiritually?

NOTES:

FURTHER STUDY:

1. Jump back to Ephesians with us and look at what Paul tells us about God's plan for us in Ephesians 2:8-10. God has created us unique and prepared things for us to do.
2. If you struggle with jealousy or comparison because of what you see in other's life, a great book to check out is **Crash the Chatterbox** by Steven Furtick.
3. Pastor Ryan mentioned the book *Boundaries* by Dr. Henry Cloud on Sunday, which is a terrific book about the way God has ordered our world, and works even in our limits.