

Life's Healing Choices – Pt 5 THE TRANSFORMATION CHOICE

The journey towards transformation ~ Genesis 31-32

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matt. 5:6 (NIV)

FIVE PHASES GOD USES TO CHANGE US

I Hube "I	1110			
"Jacob heard	l that Laban's sons	s were saying, 'Ja	icob has taker	n everything our
father owned	and has gained	all this wealth fro	om what belo	nged to our fa-
ther.' And Jac	cob noticed that L	ahan's attitude tov	ward him was	not what it had

Phase

been. "Gen. 31:1-2 (NIV)

Phase #1 The

"The messengers returned to Jacob and said, 'We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, with an army of 400 men!' Jacob was terrified at the news." Gen. 32:6-7 (NLT)

"Then Jacob prayed, 'O God ...O Lord... I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you've shown me... save me I pray... for I am afraid...'" Gen. 32:9-11 (NLT)

REALITY CHOICE: Realize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable. Matt 5:3

Phase	#2 The	Phase.
1 Hase	$\pi = 1110$	1 11asc.

"Jacob got them safely across the brook Jabbok along with all his possessions. But Jacob stayed behind and was left all alone in the camp, and a Man came and wrestled with him until dawn. When the Man saw that he couldn't win the match, he struck Jacob's hip and knocked it out of joint at the socket." Gen. 32:23-25 (NLT/MSG)

HOPE CHOICE: Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover. Matt 5:4

Phase #3 The	Phase.	
"Then the Man said,	'Let me go, for it is dawn.' But Jacob panted,	'I won't
let vou go unless vou	hless me!'" Gen. 32:26 (NLT)	

COMMITMENT CHOICE: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

Phase #4 The _____Phase.
"The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'JACOB', he answered." Gen.
32:27 (NIV)
Jacob = 'deceiver/manipulator"

HOUSECLEANING CHOICE: Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

Phase #5 The _____ Phase.

"Then the Man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but ISRA-EL ... Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face...'" Gen. 32:28-30 (NIV)

Israel = "Prince of God"

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matt. 5:6 (NIV)

TRANSFORMATION CHOICE: Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life and humbly ask Him to remove my character defects.

"The sun rose as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip." Gen. 32:31 (NLT)

Going deeper on you own. Many times we feel overwhelmed by the challenges we face in our lives. There seems to be so many things we want to change. This week read Genesis 31 and 32. Write out the issues Jacob had. (selfish, deceitful, manipulative, self serving, etc.) Notice how God took them on one at a time. Look at how God removed each one. Write down all the issues you would like to see changed in your life. Take them on one at time and ask God as you voluntarily give up your control of each issue to change you and then follow his leadership. Trust Him as He leads you. As you overcome each issue, scratch it off your list. Read chapter 5 in Life's Healing choices and take the simple steps outlined in the book to transform those issues one at a time.