

The Jacob Generation – Seek the Lord 3

Psalms 24; 1-6

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness
The world and those who dwell therein.
For He has founded it upon the seas
And established it upon the waters
Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?
Or who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and pure heart
Who has not sworn deceitfully
He shall receive blessing from the Lord
And righteousness from the God is his salvation
This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him
Who seek your face. SELAH!

What an interesting scripture. Over the years I have heard many messages using the verses 1-5 often leaving out verse 6. ON the surface it looks as though David the writer of this psalm got the name wrong, because everything that he says allows people to seek the Lord, everything that he states will bring a person into the presence of God is listed there and if you know scripture you will know that **Jacob fell down in everyone of those areas**. He failed at every one of them.

So, why the Jacob Generation?

What is the Jacob Generation?
Who is the Jacob Generation?

Well let's give this thought a little back drop...

Every civilization always has problems, challenges with the generations to come. You here expressions like 'In my time', "when I was young we would never have done that"; "These people need to get back to the basics"; while a lot of these thoughts are worthy of attention and some even noteworthy, the real issue is the heart of God for any given generation.

Here are some interesting quotes

Youth Quotes

"The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers. **ATtribution:** Attributed to SOCRATES by Plato

Plato complained about the youth of the day, also. "What is happening to our young people? They disrespect their elders, they disobey their parents. They ignore the law. They riot in the streets inflamed with wild notions. Their morals are decaying. What is to become of them?"

"I see no hope for the future of our people if they are dependent on frivolous youth of today, for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words... When I was young, we were taught to be discreet and respectful of elders, but the present youth are exceedingly wise [disrespectful] and impatient of restraint" (Hesiod, 8th century BC).

"The world is passing through troublous times. The young people of today think of nothing but themselves. They have no reverence for parents or old age. They are impatient of all restraint. They talk as if they knew everything, and what passes for wisdom with us is foolishness with them. As for the girls, they are forward, immodest and unladylike in speech, behavior and dress." An extract from a sermon preached by Peter the Hermit in A.D. 1274

So is the Jacob Generation the youth of today?

One thing I have found is that age does not determine generation always. There are plenty of people who are Generation x but think like a baby boomer, there are even Generation y who think like a baby boomer and there are even some baby boomers who think like Generation x or even Generation Y.

But I think to understand the Jacob Generation we need to understand Jacob. For that we need to know the bible and what it says about him.

Genesis 25; 23-28

What does this tell us about Jacob?

He was a loner. He did not dwell out in the open he chose to stay in doors.
He was a mummy's boy.

- Verses 29- 34 Jacob buys the birthright of Esau.
- Without going into any more scripture for times sake let me just list out the life and times of Jacob.
- Jacob – his name means Supplanter (usurper: one who wrongfully or illegally seizes and holds the place of another)
- Genesis 27 – He stole the blessing of the first born from his brother Esau
- He ran from his brother who wanted to kill him.
- Genesis 28 – he vows to God and sees heaven
- He fell in love with Rachel
- He worked for seven years to get Rachel and then when drunk he was cheated by his father in law and given Leah.
- He worked for another seven years and finally married the love of his life.
- He had 12 children

- He wanted to return to his own family and land. His father in law Laban thought he might be able to cheat Jacob out of some more so he took the deal of Jacob only taking the spotted and speckled lambs as his wages. Jacob came up with an ingenious plan and ended up getting all the strong lambs. He cheated his father in law out of all the strong lambs. (Genesis 30)
- He ran from Laban after hearing Laban's sons talking about him and seeing Laban's countenance change towards him.
- Laban then runs after him and catches up to him. We then have a Mexican stand off. 'I did not do anything wrong'. Yes you did you stole my daughter, my children and my lives stock. Yet God intervened.
- He then wanted to meet his brother Esau, the one whom he cheated the birthright and blessing out of, but he was afraid. So he tries to protect at least a part of his company by dividing the ranks up into two camp sites.
- He called upon God for help.
- He wrestled with God who
 - Changes his name from Jacob to Israel – a complete change of identity
 - God pokes him in his thigh and he cant walk the same – God Changes the way he experiences life, he walks differently. **God changes the way he lives out that identity in the world.**
- He reconciles with his brother.

This tells us a lot about the Jacob generation. **I believe the Jacob Generation is not bound by age. It is not just a young person.** It is not just the youth of today. The Jacob Generation is marked by specific characteristics that are not age dependant. You can be 50 and be part of the Jacob Generation. You can be 10 and be part of the Jacob Generation. You can be 80 and be part of the Jacob Generation. Age does not alter the facts or the characteristics of the Jacob Generation.

The Characteristics of the Jacob Generation

- a. They are Sinners – they cheat, they steal, they rob, they destroy relationships, they are deceitful and controlling.
- b. They run from Conflict – unable to face the facts of life they prefer to run from conflict. They don't want to upset the apple cart. Parents who don't want to discipline their children, husbands who don't lead their homes, wives who don't stand by their husbands. People who will not stand up and be counted. They would rather side with the gossipers of the day than stand up.
- c. They don't care about family – either their natural family nor their spiritual family. They would rather just go with what feels right
- d. They know how to make money
- e. They have had an encounter with God that has changed their identity and they way they view life

We live in a world that has the Jacob Generation.

We live in a world that has a shadow cast over it. It is a dark and scary shadow. It is the shadow of seeking after wealth/blessing over integrity. People doing whatever they can to get wealth, even ignoring the laws of God. We have people suing each other over things that should not be.

Many people think it is there due. It is their right. They have a right to the wealth. A right to that money. And they don't care who gets hurt along the way.

These people are deceitful. A man of integrity is hard to find.

WE live in the Jacob Generation.

We live amongst people who are afraid of conflict and would rather move away from someone than sort things out. People have a fight with someone and then the friendship is over, completely.

This is the Jacob Generation.

Yet it is this generation that will seek the Lord. It is this generation that God will visit and bring about a profound transformation. An unparalleled transformation. God changes someone's identity (their name) and the way they walk and live out their lives. It is a complete transformation. This is the generation that seeks the Lord.

It does not matter what you have done!

It does not matter what has happened in the past.

It does not matter if you have cheated, stolen, killed, lied, rejected, despised, been a coward, lived a lie, lived a loose life, been dishonourable to your parents, abused a position of authority, been cheated of something rightfully yours, whatever has happened to you. **It is time to seek the LORD.**

Church is it time to wrestle with God.

Wrestling with God means you don't let go until the blessing comes. Jacob wrestled and would not let go until God blessed him. But he had to receive that blessing. Having your leg/hip joint displaced wasn't a pleasant experience but boy oh boy did it change him.

When you wrestle with God You get changed.

When you seek the lord and wrestle with God you end up walking differently.

Jacob ends up

- Wanting to be reconciled not run
- He tries to protect not abandon
- He gives an offering instead of stealing
- He lives in peace with his family instead of the threat of death.

Church, we are the Jacob Generation. We are seeking the Lord. WE are placing ourselves in a wrestling match with God. Don't worry you will win even if you loose.

Church we are the Jacob Generation and its time to seek the Lord.