



Introduction:

- I have a scar on my thumb and a vertical “ridge” on my thumbnail that serves as a permanent reminder of a wrestling match I had (and lost) last year with a 25-foot tent pole at Sports Camp.
- Jacob had a permanent limp he received from his wrestling match with God that served as a permanent reminder of his submission to God’s will in his life.
- Scars, limps and other physical anomalies may also be reminders to us of spiritual “wrestling matches” we have had with God.
- Jacob’s encounter with God in Genesis 32 serves as a warning to us that:

God will often mercilessly wrestle with
His _____ in order to bring them
to the point of _____ so that
He can bestow upon them _____!

What Does “Wrestling With God” Look Like?

_____ *And Jacob was left alone... (v. 24)*

I want to suggest to you...that if you find that your support system (your parents, Christian peers, pastors/counselors, etc.) has been knocked out from underneath you, _____ God is wrestling with you.

_____ *And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. (v. 24)*

Two Observations:

1. This “man”...was not an a man...not an angel...but was _____.
2. It wasn’t Jacob that wrestled with God...but rather _____.

It is a terrible thing to be hammered on by God because we won’t yield to His will, but God will do _____.
 – David Jeremiah

_____ *When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. (v. 25)*

The Rest of the Story...

Finally, Jacob was broken...and _____ God was willing to bless him and there He blessed him. (v. 29)

- Jacob got a new name: Israel –
- Jacob got a new _____.

Conclusion:

Jacob had to come to the place with God that God was no longer Abrahams’s God...or Isaac’s God. But that God was *his* God.

God will *always* win the wrestling match.

If we were smart, then the sooner we _____, the better.