



The Names We Have Been Given

Genesis 32:24-32

Guest Speaker - Zach Van Dyke

1. Most families tell family stories and they usually reinforce archetypes. For example, that time Uncle Jerry disappeared for 2 weeks has become a family story that reinforces him as the "black sheep" in the family. Typical archetypes are black sheep, scapegoat, hero, princess, clown, martyr, troublemaker, sacrificial lamb. Who in your family falls into these categories? Have you been given an archetype in your family? If so, is it reinforced with a family story. Share the story.
2. Why do you think Jacob had to wrestle with God before hearing his real name?
3. Why do you think the blessing of God always comes with a limp? (also see 2 Corinthians 12:7-9)
4. The story of Jacob wrestling with God ends by telling us in verse 32 that from that point on, "the people of God do not eat the tendon attached to the socket of the hip, because the socket of Jacob's hip was touched near the tendon." This suggests that Jacob's story of struggle with God was remembered and told again and again. How comfortable are you with sharing your story of struggle with God? What gets in the way of you being able to share? Do you believe that your story, told truthfully, is good news for others?
5. Do you have an inkling of the name that God will one day give you? On dark nights of the soul, what do you fear your name will be? In the midst of great hope, what do you wish your name would be?

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