

Next Week's Prayers



"...The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

Jas. 5:16

▶ Prayer Exercise

Examine your life for evidence that you lack resources to solve problems.

Determine that you will honestly admit your sins to God.

Make a list of the areas of your life where mercy is the most needful blessing from God.

Ask God for mercy.



DEVELOPING STUDENTS
OF THE BIBLE

Sunday Morning Bible Class

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Sunday Morning Bible Class



▶ 40 Great Prayers of the Bible

Farmerville
Church of Christ

Jacob's Prayer for Mercy from Esau
Genesis 32:6-12

Prayer Study #2

Bill Denton, Instructor

Jacob's Prayer for Mercy (Gen. 32:6-12)

Jacob may have been the original "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." He struggles with tendencies to act in less than honorable ways, yet he also struggles to be a man of faith.

Jacob's relationships, including that with his brother Esau, often reflect these inconsistencies. His selfishness and deceitfulness in taking from his brother the birthright that rightfully belonged to him, created a dangerous situation. Jacob actually fled his homeland because he was afraid of his brother. Years later, when returning with his family and wealth, the news that his brother was coming to meet him still caused great fear to overwhelm him. Then he prayed.

What Can We Learn?

1. Jacob prayed to the God of his fathers, which may have been an appeal to God's faithfulness.
2. Jacob also addressed God as his God, the one who had spoken to him.
3. He prayed in an attitude of contrition, humility, and self-abasement.
4. Behind the prayer is evidently a man who no longer desires to live by deception, and so he prays for God's deliverance.
5. He shows us that fear and the knowledge that we lack sufficient resources are good reasons to pray.

More About Prayer for Mercy

1. Mercy is the frequent companion of grace. While grace is getting what you don't deserve, mercy is not getting what you do deserve. Jacob shows us our frequent need for mercy.
2. Mercy seeks God's pardon for sin.
3. Mercy requires admission and confession of sin.

Questions to Ponder

1. For what do you need to ask mercy?
2. How did God reconcile the brothers Jacob and Esau?
3. Do you think a person must feel helpless before he or she will seek God's mercy? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think some people might actively avoid asking for God's mercy?
5. What must a person believe about God before he or she will ask for mercy?
6. How does Hebrews 4:16f help encourage us to seek God's mercy?
7. How would you know if God answered your prayers for mercy?

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