

the struggle| *wrestling with life*

When God is Silent

Prentice Park

Genesis 32:22-32, v 29

March 17, 2024

Introduction: You struggle. I struggle. Life is a struggle. The struggle of life can exhaust and diminish and confound and embitter us. But there's another struggle too. There's a struggle with the one who made us and loves us and wants to give us life. The question for Lent is: What am I struggling with? Am I struggling with the darkness, or am I struggling with the one who will show me the face of God?

Prayer: Holy God, teach us as we struggle together with this text. Show us yourself in what you say and what you don't say. Amen

Review: Pastor George said to ask God, "Would you give me a new name that reflects my identity in Christ?" How did your new name affect your thinking this week?

Read: Genesis 32:22-32, v 29

Discussion:

1. Why do you think Jacob wants to know the name of his wrestling opponent?
2. 'Why do you ask my name?' could imply 'Don't you know who I am?' Do you think Jacob knew who he was wrestling with when he asked or do you think he realized later? See v 30
3. Why do you think the man doesn't tell Jacob his name? Look at these verses about God's name. Judges 13:17-18 (Manoah is Sampson's father), Exodus 3:13-14, Exodus 6:2-3
4. What kind of question is unanswerable? What questions have you been asked that you could answer but you know that the answer would not be understood?

Application: Think about the questions you have for God for which you have not heard the answers. What is God teaching you as you wait for the answers?

Prayer: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thank you for your patience with us as we strive to know you better. Amen