

a deep sense of failure in view of moral ends. Dwell upon the meaning of the wrestling, the casting out of Jacob's cunning and self-reliance and the supremacy of faith in God, with its consequent victory. Jacob, from years of clever scheming, had learned that God alone supplies true strength and comfort.

2. *The removal of the old grudge*, ch. 33 : 1-15. Bring out the three main facts : (a) God's working in the life of both men, so that the nobler side of brotherly love triumphed. Dwell upon Esau's generous, frank welcome. The marvelous possibilities of reconciliation and the power of kindred ties are seen when it occurs after years of separation on account of a bitter quarrel. (b) Jacob's gift as a token of reconciliation and Esau's offer to befriend him against danger. (c) The good will in parting. Now dwell upon the growing influence of moral and spiritual considerations as prayerfulness, humility and disinterestedness, over Jacob, as seen in the settlement of differences with Laban and Esau, contrasted with the little influence which these had at first in Jacob's life.

Now discuss the value of reconciliation from an individual and a social point of view. The value of this to Isaac, Jacob, Esau and their families should be emphasized. Take up the teaching of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount and impress His thought as to the necessity of proper social relations, the responsibility resting upon the injured one, the method of securing reconciliation and the ideal of spiritual standards as supreme.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Question the class about some of the most important incidents in the life of Jacob from the time he left his own country till he returned,—his dealings with Laban, his marriages, his journey back. How long had Jacob been away? What fear possessed him as he returned? (Ch. 32 : 6, 7.) What did this lead him to do? (Ch. 32 : 9-12.) What means did he take of winning his brother? (Ch. 32 : 13-21.) After doing all that he could how did he spend the night? (Ch. 32 : 24-32.)

I. *The Reconciliation*, vs. 1-7. Bring out the commendable caution manifested by Jacob in dividing his company into three

groups. He was still fearful that Esau might have evil intents in his heart. Note the place of greatest safety assigned to Rachel and Joseph, also the place of danger which Jacob himself took. He was willing to expose himself in order to protect the women and children. Refer to the manifestation of this same spirit in the unwritten British law of "women and children first" in case of shipwreck.

Ask the scholars to describe the meeting of the two brothers. In outward form it was Oriental, but in spirit it was beautiful with something which every heart can understand. Picture Jacob presenting the women and the children to his brother. The two men were brothers again. Old memories of home and childhood were fresh in their hearts. Remind the class that a day of reconciliation is always a happy day. This is especially the case amongst the members of the same family.

2. *The Present*, vs. 8-11. Note how graciously Esau introduced the matter of the droves which Jacob had sent on ahead as a present to his brother, and how openly Jacob explained why he had sent them, v. 8. In this conversation about the present it is difficult which to admire the more, the generous kindly spirit of Esau who did not wish to take from his brother his hard-earned wealth, or the grateful spirit of Jacob who felt that it was more blessed to give than to receive under such circumstances. It may have been worldly policy which prompted Jacob to send the droves ahead as a present to his brother, but it is now gratitude to God that makes him insist upon giving the present. Help the class to see, that there is nothing in the world like love to God to constrain us to be generous.

3. *The Journey Continued*, vs. 12-15. What proposition did Esau make? Why did Jacob decline to accept his brother's protection? The brothers part in the most kindly way.

This Lesson presents a beautiful scene in which both brothers appear at their best. Impress upon the class, that we can all do something to make life beautiful by living up to the best that is in us, by living in a Christian way.