

# *Life's Healing Choices: The Beatitudes - Part 5*

## THE TRANSFORMATION CHOICE

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### 5 Phases God Uses To Change Us

#### 1. CONFLICT

Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, 'Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father.' And Jacob noticed that Laban's attitude toward him was not what it had been. *Genesis 31:1-2 NIV*

The messengers returned to Jacob and said, 'We went to your brother Esau, and now he is coming to meet you, with an army of 400 men!' Jacob was terrified at the news. *Genesis 32:6-7 NLT*

Then Jacob prayed, 'O God ...O Lord... I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you've shown me... save me I pray... for I am afraid...' *Genesis 32:9-11 NLT*

- **REALITY CHOICE:** Realize I'm not God; I admit that I am powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable.

God blesses those who realize their need for him. *Matthew 5:3 NLT*

#### 2. CRISIS

Jacob got them safely across the brook Jabbok along with all his possessions. But Jacob stayed behind and was left all alone in the camp, and a Man came and wrestled with him until dawn. When the Man saw that he couldn't win the match, he struck Jacob's hip and knocked it out of joint at the socket. *Genesis 32:23-25NLT/MSG*

Before Jacob was born, he struggled with his brother; when he became a man, he even fought with God. *Hosea 12:3 NLT*

- **HOPE CHOICE:** Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to him, and that he has the power to help me recover.

#### 3. COMMITMENT

Then the Man said, 'Let me go, for it is dawn.' But Jacob panted, 'I won't let you go unless you bless me!' *Genesis 32:26 NLT*

- **COMMITMENT CHOICE:** Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God. *Romans 6:13 NLT*

#### 4. CONFESSION

The man asked him, 'What is your name?' 'Jacob', he answered." *Genesis 32:27 NIV*

Jacob = "deceiver / manipulator"

- **HOUSECLEANING CHOICE:** Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. *Psalms 34:18 NIV*

#### 5. CONVERSION

Then the Man said, 'Your name will no longer be Jacob, but ISRAEL ... Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face...' *Genesis 32:28-30 NIV*

Israel = "Prince with God"

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. *Matthew 5:6 NIV*

- **TRANSFORMATION CHOICE:** Voluntarily submit to every change God wants to make in my life, and humbly ask him to remove my character defects.

The sun rose as Jacob left Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. *Genesis 32:31 NLT*