



Talk 1

The devil is very sly in his warfare with us in that he deceives us to believe that we are good, perfect and doing fine.

In reality: we are not ok.

There are two types of people. One eats good food, lives amazing life and wants to keep that forever. The other type don't want that and are used to a different type of food.

"And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."" - Exodus 33:18

Isn't this a strange request? Moses has just spent 40 days with God, in His glory! What more could he want?! Why did Moses do that?

Let's trackback to Exodus 32

And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony *were* in his hand. The tablets *were* written on both sides; on the one *side* and on the other they were written. Now the tablets *were* the work of God, and the writing *was* the writing of God engraved on the tablets. And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "***There is a noise of war in the camp.***" - Exodus 32:15-17

In v18 Moses replied to Joshua:

"*It is not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing I hear.*"

It wasn't a war! It was rather the sound of demonic worship.

When God comes down to our hearts, what can He see? Maybe from the outside he can see beauty but what about my heart? Here, God and Moses the man of God saw a golden calf, an idol, another god inside, a contrasting behaviour.

The people of God, while He is revealing Himself and speaking His word, claimed to be worshipping God but in reality they had in their hearts an idol.

What will God see in our own hearts? What did Moses do?

"So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf *and* the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and **he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them** at the foot of the mountain." Exodus 32:19

How can we explain what he did? Moses showed the people what they are doing to God's word.



Be brave to declare to God that you are a sinner, you are broken and you need God to heal you. Don't listen to the devil trying to convince you that God isn't here, you don't need Him, you don't like His Word, and question what the benefit of His Word to you.

What Moses did:

Then he took the calf which they had made, burned *it* in the fire, and **ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water** and made the children of Israel drink *it*. - Exodus 32:20

Why did he need to make it a powder and put it in their drinking water?

The water with gold is the strongest emetic! So actually what Moses did was force them to drink their god. Every time they drink they throw up and so they begin to hate it.

God does the same with us in our lives. Something similar happened in the story of the prodigal son, the very thing the son wanted was what he became sick of and what made him return to his senses.

The golden calf probably was an idea they got from Egypt. They came out of Egypt with their bodies but they left their hearts in Egypt. Remember that you need to take this sin out, you need to throw it out, you need to hate it.

Let us now see what Moses had to do for them the next day: "Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."" - Exodus 32:30-32

From here we can see that the price of sin is death. Moses is offering his eternity for their sakes! Every time I sin, I need Jesus to soup to the Father to atone for me, I need to go to the cross and say "Lord, let your blood cover me. I am worthy of death, the fruit of my sin is death, but I don't want to die, I don't want to be punished - but You have already been punished for me, Please let me benefit from the punishment You took for me on the cross.

In a similar manner, Moses went to go and atone for the Israelites. God accepted this. But it is after this that Moses asked God to see His glory! Why? Why is this important to us?

Every time the Devil wants to trick you into thinking sin is normal, into thinking that you are OK, that what you have is as good as it gets, don't let him! **Ask the Lord to show you His glory!**

We are not only here to throw out the golden calf image but also to see His glory, to taste His glory! The devil offers us disgusting food whilst the Lord is giving us something sweet which once you taste you will ask yourself how you ever were ok with what satan was giving you.



Talk 2

How do people who love the Lord so much (and of course God loves them infinitely) and yet they are not happy. If we are married to Jesus we should be the happiest. So why are we not happy? There is a hidden enemy which hates us so much. This enemy's work is to eat at this love between me and Jesus, he makes me a trap that I fall into and I feel like I can't get up out of the mud and out of the pit. But Jesus is always knocking on my door, He stretches His arm out to me to take me out, to give me the best life but because look at myself and think 'surely Jesus doesn't love me, He must hate me, I have brought this upon myself' and then the cunning devil gives me some pleasures to have fun with in the pit but at the end I am not happy, I am not pure and I don't enjoy the love of Jesus.

There was once a man who used to go to the church and he loved the Lord. He got married and had children. Then one day, he got a text message, about a committee meeting at work at 10am - he said he'd go. Then he got another text message asking him if he had time to grab a coffee at Starbucks next to where the meeting was going to be - he said ok. So he went and met his colleague who was also married for coffee and then they went to the meeting after and everything was fine. However, the committee meeting became more regular so he would get the same text messages and have the same coffee. Then one day during the meeting, he got a text message asking him if they could get lunch together and he said ok. After lunch he got a text thanking him for a great time etc... She went home to her husband and he went home to his family. One day, after lunch, she told him that she didn't have a car that day and asked if he could drop her off at home and he said ok. SO he went with her home, nothing happened. The next day, she said to him yesterday was nice, can you drop me off today too? Then she added "you're a great man, your wife is so lucky etc."

Because things were going fast, he couldn't stop to think to realise what she was doing.

When temptation is there, the first work of the devil is to stop that one from thinking. Especially when things are progressing fast. Instead of our minds stopping to think, our emotions are working. If we actually stop to think we would think about what we are doing, what is happening, what the consequences are - but the devil stops this by making things to go fast so that I don't stop to think.

When we invite a sin, a temptation, a weakness to enter our life what do we actually invite into our lives? It is not the sin itself that I have invited inside me but actually the demon behind it. You can't see that, you will see the distorted image of innocence of the temptation.

What saved Joseph when he was tempted? He told himself "this relationship is not correct".

The devil tries to chain you to things, convincing you to believe it is innocent.

Even something like Facebook, it can be used by the demon to get inside us.



““When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds *it* swept and put in order. Then he goes and **takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself**, and they enter and **dwell there**; and the last *state* of that man is worse than the first.”” - Luke 11:24-26

After the sin enters, and the demon of that sin enters, he brings with him more demons e.g. of desire and lust. And more than that, the those demons make their dwelling there.

“Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs.” - Luke 8:26-27

Once I invite the sin into my life with its demon which brings with it more demons, you find that you start becoming a different person and you start doing things against your very nature.

After a while, my behaviour will start to change. In v27 we see the man was living in the tombs! When I allow the demons to come inside me, I am also allowing them to cut all the ties I have to good behaviour. If we actually stop to think or to look at what we’re doing we won’t do it! The devil stops me from thinking and blinds me from seeing what i’m really doing.

“For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and **he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds** and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.” - Luke 8:29

His family tried to keep him under control by preventing him from going out e.g. to the tombs by tying him down with chains and shackles but he (by the power of the demons inside him) was able to brake the bonds. It is sad enough that he is tied from the inside but then what good is it if we tie him from the outside also? He needs comfort and help, not to be cursed or judged by us which is actually us tying and punishing that person even though I may think what I’m doing is fine. There is no love in that, and in so doing, we push people to be a “hopeless” case.

Actually this “hopeless” story is one of the best stories for giving us hope. Even though the man was in one place and Jesus was in another with a great sea between them, Jesus heard his cry for help. Don’t accept your condition, don’t accept the devil’s lie that it is hopeless. When He heard him, He did something very strange, He crossed the sea. The devil always wants to make it hard for you when you ask for help, e.g. the wind and the storm that was in the sea as Jesus was on His way to help the possessed man crying out for his help. What did Jesus say? Jesus stood and spoke to the wind as though it were a man, “Then He arose and **rebuked** the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.” - Luke 8:24. Who was Jesus speaking to in fact? He was talking to the devil behind the wind and storm. We need to be like that - we need to rebuke the devil just like this.



“When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!”” - Luke 8:28

When he was asked what his name was he said “Legion” because he had 6000 demons inside him!

The only place of victory is the presence of Jesus.

“Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.” - Luke 8:33

Why did the swine kill themselves?

If the swine could not accept the demons, shouldn't we all the more reject them? We as humans accept 6000 demons and call it “fun”. This is deception and humiliation.

“Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, **sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind.** And they were afraid.” - Luke 8:35

Jesus wants us to return to Him today. The man even asked Jesus if he could follow Him.

Jesus told him (v38-39) to stay and be a source of light to others, so that everyone around him might know Jesus and be His disciples instead of tormenting them. This is what Jesus wants from us!



Talk 3

The devil's two main weapons against us are 1. guilt and 2. fear.

The devil makes us feel guilt to the point that we escape from those trying to help us, from the church, from my relationship with God.

The fear then makes us to have no faith and no hope.

Why, when I am tempted, I don't say "no"? If I try a sin and then enjoy it, it can start to become an addiction in my life, and then I feel my life is upside down. God says enough, new page, new start and then I feel pure, holy and blessed and I feel great until God does something I don't understand e.g. a hardship in my life and in this period the devil tempts me and I "snatch" it. What about the pain and misery in the past? What about the tears and regret that I felt as a consequence of that sin before? Why do I accept it again? Why do I want to go through it all again? Satan makes me forget the consequence of sin and the guilty feelings; he reminds me about the pleasure and convinces me that there are no consequences.

The story of David is the one that scares me of the consequence of sin. How did David the King and Prophet who already had a few wives fall into this sin? Do you think David was expecting the consequences of that sin? So why do we still do it?

Our problem is not that it's "fun" or that I forget the consequences but the main problem is that we are not spiritually mature. We are babies.

"The Lord *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake."

- Psalm 23:1-3

Sometimes the problem is that this psalm disables me. God feeds, restores, washes me. With time I create the feeling inside me that I am only receiving and not giving anything. This psalm is for the baby steps in the spiritual life. God does want to carry, love and wash you (gladly) but this shouldn't be forever. We will now look into this story to see how God changes us from that to be mature people.

When the shepherd feeds the sheep do the sheep realise what he is doing for them? No. When an enemy attacks the sheep, are the sheep able to defend themselves? No. Rather, they hide behind the shepherd. This is what the devil does with us. When we are not mature we are like these sheep. Do I know the Shepherd? No, all I know is that He feeds, washes and protects me. Is this maturity? He wants to make you into something much more fruitful.

Let us now see how the story of Joseph is a story of maturity (rather than purity).



“Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. This *is* the history of Jacob. Joseph, *being* seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of *many* colors.” Genesis 37:1-3

Isn’t it strange that this passage starts by saying this is the story of Jacob (and his family) and the first name that is mentioned is Joseph who was only his 11th son?! So how is Joseph the *first* one to be mentioned? There is something wrong here - he was spoiled. Jacob loved him more than his other sons firstly because he loved Rachel his mother more than his other wives and secondly because he begot Joseph in his old age; so Jacob loved Joseph more not because of Joseph’s personality or character but for two wrong reasons. Sometimes we are victims of bad upbringing but it is not an excuse.

The way Jacob showed his love to Joseph or the way he made Joseph stand out was to give him the coat of many colours. Now in relation to Psalm 23, the Lord is my shepherd, who dresses, feeds and spoils me.

“Now Joseph had a dream, and he told *it* to his brothers; and they hated him even more. So he said to them, “Please hear this dream which I have dreamed: There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf.” And his brothers said to him, “Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.” - Genesis 37:5-8

He is telling his brothers he will be above them and they will be under him. Does this sound like a smart move? Here, Joseph shows how he was a foolish sheep.

“Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.” So he told *it* to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?”” - Genesis 37:9-10

The next day he goes a step further by saying even his father and mother will be under him! If we analyse his character up until this point, he seems to only think about himself. He is saying these things to his own brothers, not enemies!

“And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter *in mind*.” - Genesis 37:11

Why do some people envy us? Note here how it was the brothers who were providing for the family, not



Joseph who didn't work and stayed at home. Isn't it ridiculous that this same boy who does nothing is apparently the best? Many times, the devil deceives me to think foolishly. If someone would've asked Joseph at the time what the purpose of his life was, what would his answer be? Nothing.... All he had was to be proud of himself and his coat. Is the meaning of my life a beautiful coat, dress or car? My identity is based on my outer investments - my dress, my phone, my car etc...

John the Baptist was described by the Lord as being great **not because of his clothes or possession but because of his character**. God is looking at your character. It isn't the outer things that make you special.

"Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding *the flock* in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am." Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem. Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?" So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding *their flocks*."" - Genesis 37:12-16

It is interesting that his words seem to give the impression that he cares for his brothers when he encountered the man in the field but in reality we know that he was selfish and only cared about himself.

"Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him." - Genesis 37:18

"So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that **they stripped Joseph of his tunic**, the tunic of *many colors* that *was* on him." - Genesis 37:23

Why was this the first thing that his brothers did to him? Why is this tunic always mentioned in Joseph's life so far? **Because this tunic is his identity. He is proud of his tunic rather than his character. Under the tunic, what was Joseph?** When his brothers saw the traders and wanted to sell him to them they probably tried to talk him up to sell well but the traders probably found that Joseph had no clue about serving let alone work. This puts into context for us the price of twenty shekels of silver which is nothing (equivalent to one day's wage for a servant). At this point Joseph probably felt sad because neither his brothers nor the traders really wanted him, and he had made himself to be like that - he started to realise that it wasn't his brothers who were wicked but in fact himself. When you live foolishly, and go to the world to add value to yourself, you will make yourself worthless.

The first lesson: My worth or my value is based on my character, not my tunic.



At this point Joseph probably felt regret for how he had lived his life. Joseph at this point promised God to be 1. loyal to Him and 2. to enter His school to learn how to be a useful boy. Notice how by the time he got to Egypt he was deemed good enough to be bought by Potiphar - so we can see that there was a change in his attitude during the journey to Egypt. Joseph had learnt his lesson - he had matured, even with his relationship with God, asking God to be with him every in every step he takes.

Joseph's had become really good at serving with his attitude that he rose through the ranks and became the overseer of Potiphar's house. When God is with you, you are not alone, you are successful. Don't think that when God wants to mature you that He wants to humiliate you - you learn what life is, what your purpose is.

But that wasn't the end of his learning curve in God's school. Do you, like Job, believe that God knows your potential and brings out the best from you? One day, Joseph found that his boss' wife started to act differently around him. He finds it strange because he grew up in a loyal household. Then one day he finds the house empty, with no one except himself and Potiphar's wife; she found him and tried to seduce him. Look at the maturity in Joseph's answer (39:8-9): If I betray God, He will take His blessing away from me. **She then held on to his garment, the garment of a slave, and he left it for her.** Joseph probably went back to his room crying and asking God how He had allowed this to happen. God wanted to show Joseph that life is not easy. There is a lot of evil in life, and many who tell you they love you don't really love you e.g. Potiphar's wife didn't truly love Joseph, she just loved herself.

The second lesson in the school of maturity is to be awakened because you will find wicked people around you who tell you they love you but they actually deceive you. Be like Joseph and kneel and pray to God and say to Him, "I will never betray You, I will always be loyal to You and You promised to bless and protect me." God will keep His promise but will you keep yours? Don't let others take advantage of you.

What would you do if you were in a similar situation? Even if it was just a text message? How should you respond? **As we see from the story of Joseph, on the outside he seems to be great with his tunic of many colours but God sees his heart, and sees the he has no character which we only see when his tunic is taken away.** When we're faced with this kind of situation or even when we are at the stage of looking at marriage, we need wisdom, and wisdom only comes from holding onto Christ. It's not about your immediate response, its about taking your problem to God first.

Anyone in this situation would probably expect to be killed after this incident, but not Joseph, because in the same way I reward the flesh with sin, God rewards my spirit with protection when I say no. Reward is positive and negative, not always positive e.g. when David sinned he was punished by God. Joseph had positive reward of protection - he was sent to prison.



How did Joseph have faith that nothing was going to happen to him? Because of his relationship with the Lord, everyday he experiences God is with him. From the start Joseph promised the Lord to be faithful and held God to his promise to bless and help him - and God fulfilled His promise. This is why throughout Joseph's story we read "the Lord was with Joseph" - whether in temptation or in ordinary days.

What is a "Covenant"? It is an agreement between God and His people. God promised to bless and protect Joseph who promised to be faithful and obedient to God. You can force God to bless you. God has a soft spot - of course no one can be sinless but if my template or default is to be faithful to Him, He will protect and bless me and guide me all the way.

So then God gave Joseph the third stage in His school of maturity: he started to care for others rather than himself. He became the kind of person who listened to the problems of others. God started to use his life - to use his gifts, to start living his purpose. He started to interpret the dreams of the other prisoners.

Then we see God's sense of humour, "Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, **changed his clothing**, and came to Pharaoh." - Genesis 41:14
Pharaoh wanted Joseph, not his clothes.

What is the sign of maturity? How do I know I've succeeded in God's school of maturity? When God entrusts me e.g. how he entrusted Joseph to help the most powerful man in the world. Historically, Pharaoh was the *only* one who could release Joseph from prison because the highest power under Pharaoh had issues with Joseph!

When you are loyal to the Lord and you enter His school and you let Him polish you and let him equip you, one day He will use you to solve the problems of the world. This also happened with Daniel and St. Paul. Don't assume your life has no purpose.

"So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, *"It is not in me; **God** will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."* - Genesis 41:16

See how when I am mature, the king of the world asks for me help and when he praises me, I give glory to God instead. When I look to, trust and am loyal to God I find that my value is very high.

"Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh *are* one; **God** has shown Pharaoh what He *is* about to do:" - Genesis 41:25

See how Joseph even witnesses to God before Pharaoh who doesn't believe in God!

"And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass." - Genesis 41:32

This time he even mentions God twice. So far he has told Pharaoh that God cares for you, God loves you and God plans for you.



Pharaoh's answer: "So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, "**Can we find *such a one* as this, a man in whom *is the Spirit of God?*"**" - Genesis 41:37-38

Everyone around me feels that I have God presence, blessing and power.

"Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, ***there is no one as discerning and wise as you.***" - Genesis 41:39

The same boy who used to say to tell his brothers to bow to him; the same slave who was worth nothing. When he entered the school of God, he was described like this!

What report would you like the world to have of you? Selfish? Shallow? Worthless? Or would you like them to say that your presence is a blessing.

In the story of Tabitha, the church didn't want to bury her and they pleaded with St. Peter to come to them to raise her up again. God wants you to be like that, to be so strongly needed by the church similar to Tabitha. Don't make yourself a burden for the church - keep yourself as a blessing for the church like Joseph and Daniel. If you want to enter the school of God, if you want to be mature like Joseph, forget what you are now and remember God wants to transform you from being foolish to be mature. When you are mature, you will be able to say no to the devil.

Let us see what God said when Abraham was faithful to Him in his maturity:

"By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son*— blessing **I will bless you**, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies." - Genesis 22:16-17

How valuable is this promise? Do you not also want to hear this promise or would you prefer to be useless, worthless, living in a small bubble and living small dreams? God wants to give you every blessing!



Talk 4

When am I going to see God's blessing? Why is it delayed?

Firstly, **the heart of God is always to bless**, even when we hate Him or don't listen to Him.
e.g. Samson - he failed God several times and even at the end God still listened to his prayer

He wants to bless you!

As St. Paul said, if God can sacrifice His Son for us, wouldn't He give us everything?

Secondly, **God can't bless me unless I am willing to bless others**. The meaning of our lives is not to live, the only condition God has for me to receive is for me to give. He will never give me a blessing just for me. e.g. when God was blessing Abraham He told Him that in all his descendants all the nations of the earth should be blessed. As I am willing to give, God gives me.

Why this condition? Because if He would give me blessings for myself, it will make me a selfish person. St. Paul taught that we should want to have the mind of Christ which is to be a slave, to serve others.

What was the weak point in Samson's life? God loved him and gave him power but he was living for himself and his flesh. So when he lived for himself and his own desires, he suffered the consequences of that.

Thirdly, **God will never bless me unless I am willing to be broken**. Why? Jesus would never have been able to save us if He hadn't have accepted the cross.

St. Peter wouldn't have been blessed if he hadn't been broken and cried when he denied the Lord. St. Paul would never have been blessed if he didn't discover that he was blind and scales needed to come out of his eyes. Why? **When God blesses me, He doesn't want me to feel that I have earned it or that I have received it because I deserve it because we have the tendency to feel that we are great when we are blessed**. When He blesses us, He tries to show us our weaknesses e.g. Jacob: when he thought highly of himself, God made everyone around him hate him such as his brother and his uncle.

Fourthly, **God will never bless me if I haven't struggled**. God promised the Israelites that every place they set their foot would become theirs but if they weren't willing to take that step, they will not be given that place. We can see this in the Book of Joshua - it is a book of inheritance, a book of victory and a book of war. You will find that not a single battle was fought by the Israelites on their own. In every battle, it is always God's hand that gives them victory. **I should have the heart of wanting to fight to inherit, not to be lazy**.

You need to be willing to fight the devil. How can I resist temptation? I need to tell God that I am weak in front of temptations, give me power to hold You and He will give you power to resist but be willing in your heart not to accept temptation, to want to be holy.



Jacob had three major problems in his life:

1. he was **weak** in front of a wrong love. He got this from his mother. She didn't truly love him because if she did she wouldn't have made him to deceive his brother and father. He was insecure, so when he felt his mother's love he became really attached to it. But that very love he clung to crippled him until he was 70 years old! Many wrong relationships paralyse us from doing anything. **Sometimes we like to love but not take any action and because we feel insecure we are afraid of taking any responsibility.**
2. he took **wrong decisions**. e.g. taking animal skin to deceive his father. When he wasn't paralysed, he did foolish things.
3. he had **bad consequences**. He became hated. His brother wanted revenge and his uncle dealt with him shrewdly. **You can't sow evil and then reap blessing.** What did God do to bless him, to make him realise that he isn't a genius who can't rely on himself only? He put before him his brother and behind him his uncle who were both after him and challenged him save himself. What did he do? At this point, he knelt down and cried to God to save him. **God agreed on the condition that Jacob accepted to be broken; and God touched him on his hip so later it was like Jacob was holding on to God to help him walk the rest of his life.** As if God was saying to him, "if you depend on Me, you will have unlimited blessings."

Do you want to be blessed? Are you willing to be broken?

It's hard. Remember that the hand that will break you is the same one that was pierced with a nail on the cross; it's a tender, loving hand. As we see in the story of Joseph, his life was filled with blessings because he accepted to be broken.

If I insist to be immature, I will be continuously be broken until I wake up from my laziness and grow in maturity. If you want to stay being immature, you can't complain when God tries to correct you.