

# The Wrestling Match

*(Based on Gen 31:22- 33:12, Matthew 11:12)*

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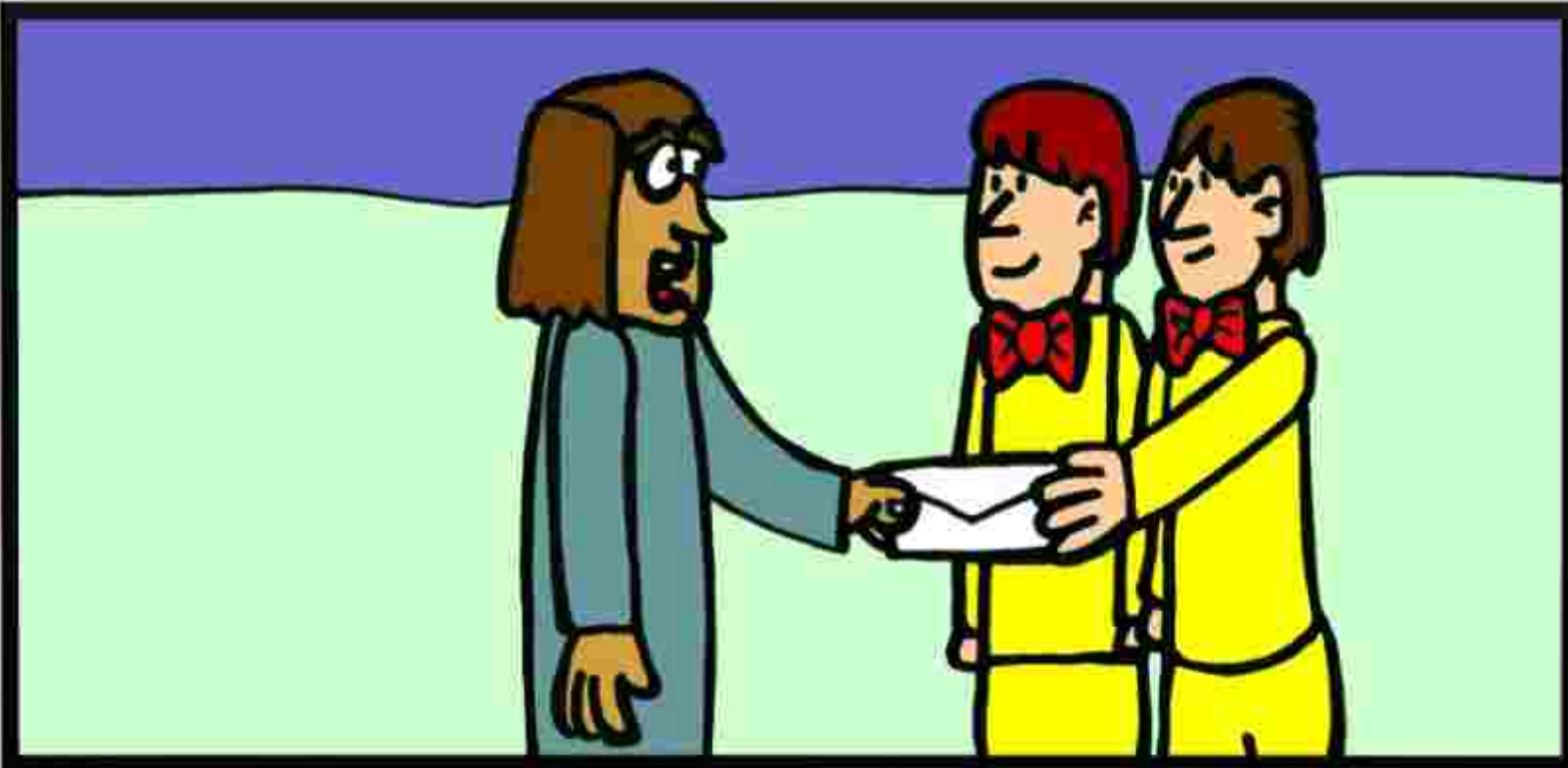
Uncle Laban was very angry that Jacob and his family went away. He chased Jacob and found him. "Why did you steal my god idols?" he said. "Whoever has your god idols, shall not live," answered Jacob.



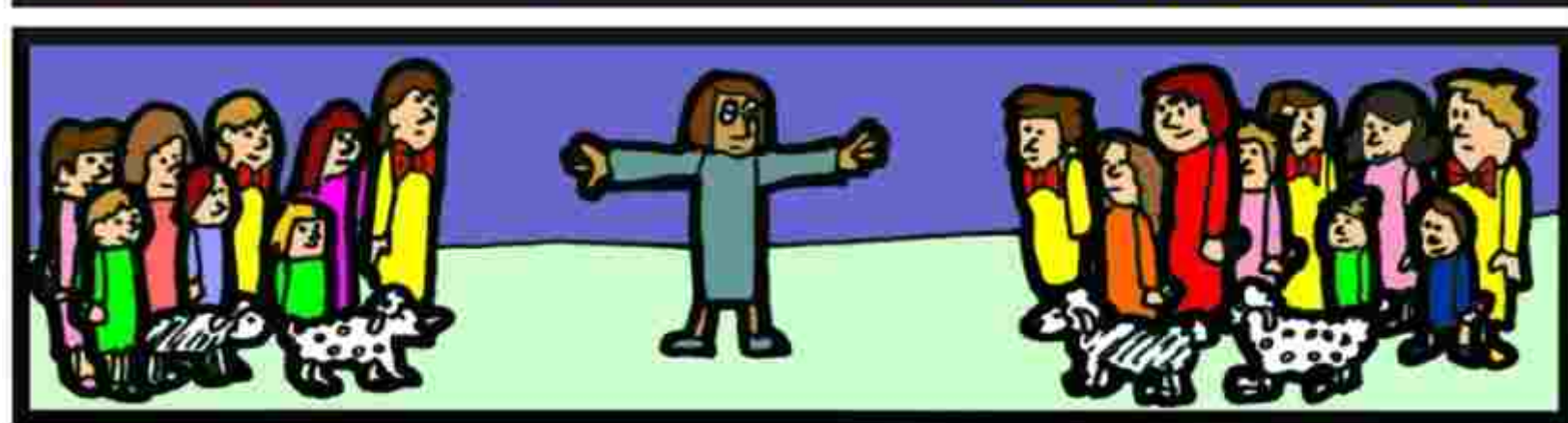
Jacob didn't know it, but his favourite wife Rachel had stolen them. Uncle Laban searched everyone's tent but did not find them. Rachel had hidden the idols in her camel's saddle and she was sitting on them.



"I have been serving you like a slave for twenty years!" Fumed Jacob. "If God hadn't been on my side, you would have sent me away with nothing!" Jacob and Laban made a solemn promise that they would never hurt each other.



As Jacob traveled toward home, God's angels met him. Jacob called the place God's camp. Jacob sent messengers ahead to his brother Esau. "I am sending this message because I hope that you will be happy to see me."



The messengers returned saying, "Esau is coming with four hundred men!" Jacob was very afraid. He divided everything into two groups. "If Esau kills one then the other group will escape!" Jacob sent servants ahead with animals, as presents for Esau.



In the middle of the night he helped his family cross over the brook. Then he was left alone. Suddenly a man started to wrestle with him! Jacob wrestled back and they wrestled all night until the sun began to rise.



When the man saw that Jacob was not giving up, he touched Jacob's hip socket and Jacob's hip went out of joint. But even still, Jacob did not give up.





"Let me go," said the man to Jacob. "The day is starting." "I will not let you go unless you bless me!" insisted Jacob. "From now on your name is Israel, (Prince with God)," said the man, "because you have struggled with God and with men and have won." Then the man blessed Jacob.



"I have seen God face to face and I'm still alive!" exclaimed Jacob. Jacob limped across the river just as the sun rose. He looked up and then he saw Esau coming.



Esau ran to meet Jacob. They hugged and kissed and cried together. "You didn't have to send me all these presents," said Esau. "I have enough." "I wanted to," answered Jacob. "God has really blessed me."



Lord, thank you that I am a child of the King because of my faith in you. I am a Prince or Princess with God. Help me to never give up.