

Journey towards the Cross

Topic:

God changes our identity for a purpose.

Bible portion:

Genesis 32:27-28

Focus:

Jacob: Identity changed
for a purpose.



February 27, 2026

A daily devotional for lent season

40-Day Gospel Reading Plan

Bible Readings for Today

Matthew 24-25



Have you Read your
Bible today?

Memory Verse for the day

But the one who
endures to the end
will be saved.

Matthew 24:13 (ESV)

Quote

“God loves you just
the way you are, but
He refuses to leave
you that way.”

- Max Lucado

Many today seem obsessed with identity. Identity is not self-declared or self-developed; it is given to us by our Maker and Redeemer.

Up until Genesis 32:26, Jacob knew who he was—his identity. We see that a man grabbed Jacob and began to wrestle with him until daybreak. When the sun went down, his name was “*Jacob: The cheater.*” When the sun came up, his name was “*Israel.*” Before that night, Jacob was in exceptional physical condition, and after he met the Lord, his life was changed forever in three significant ways:

1. God helps us face who we really are.

God asked, “*What is your name?*” He already knew the answer, but Jacob needed to speak the

truth himself. The name “Jacob” meant cheater, and he was true to his name. Today, God gently asks us the same question. For the people of God, this may mean being honest about jealousy, wrong choices, or wrong actions. *When we tell God the truth about ourselves, He opens the door to change.*

2. God changes our identity through struggle, not comfort.

Jacob wrestled, and when the struggle ended, he walked with a limp and received a new name: Israel. In our daily lives, God uses struggles to shape us. He uses difficult moments to remove our old ways and form a new identity in us.

Even when we limp, we are walking with God.

3. God gives us a new identity for a new purpose.

Jacob's name was changed not just for his own blessing, but so that he could face his brother

Esau, heal old wounds, and become a blessing to others. After meeting God, Jacob still had to face his past, but he faced it as a changed man. *Our new identity in Christ means we live differently at home, at school, at work, and in the church.*

Who won the match that night? Simple: God. And who lost? Easy, it's Jacob. But in losing, Jacob won!

JACOB RECEIVED A
NEW IDENTITY:
ISRAEL!



Prayer:

God of Jacob, change our identity. Help us to follow You, even if we must walk with a limp. Amen.

- Rev. Robin Eipe Mathew



Prayer Point

Pray for orphans
and the destitute.

