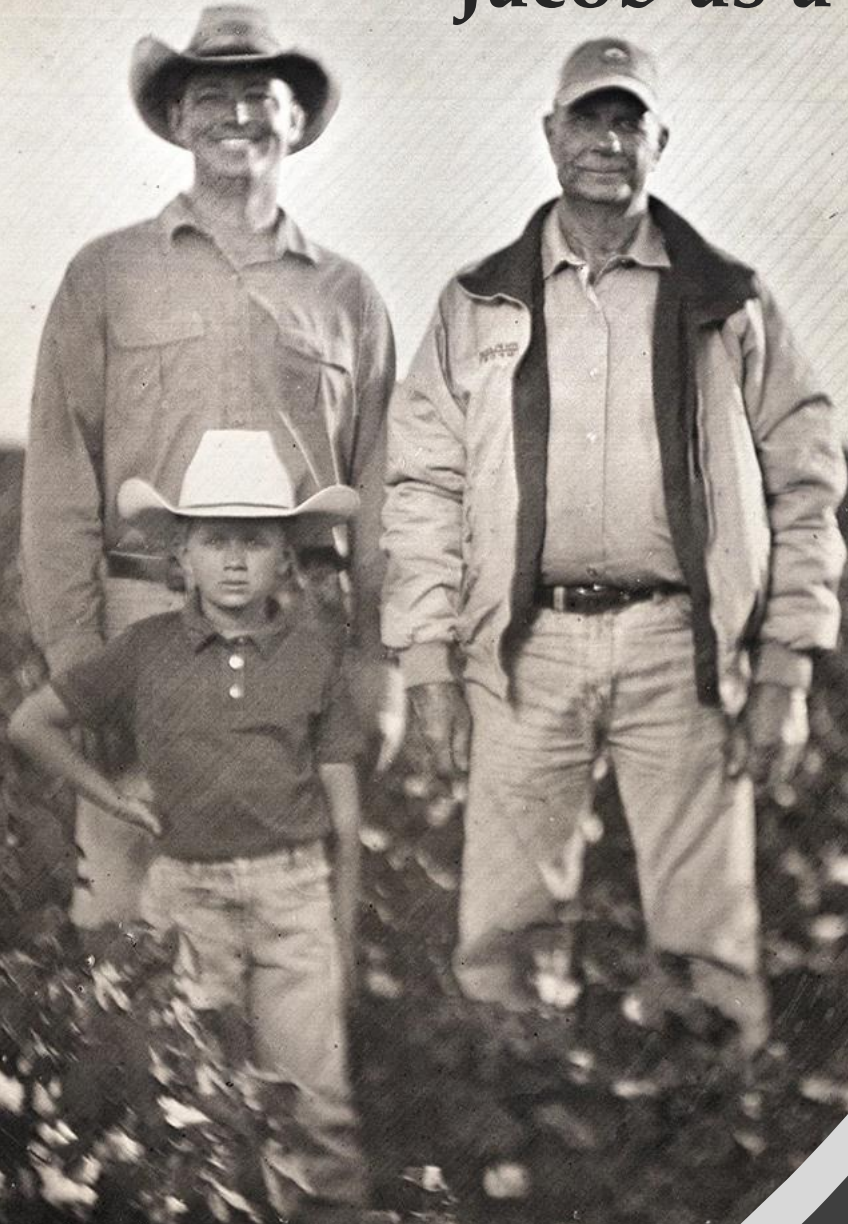


THE POWER OF A FATHER

The Power of a Father:

Jacob as a Model



The Power of a Father!

As men, in a culture under attack, we need an understanding of mature masculinity—a vision and direction we can pursue with our sons! We need tools, methods, and ideas to help us become Godly men and from which to equip our sons. We need to grow up!

Jacob – the patriarch of Israel – the father of a nation—is a troubling character in the Old Testament. He is a so much like us -- with very human strengths and weaknesses, but a man with a striving for spiritual things. From this imperfect man we learn important lessons of faith. Especially, we learn about God's grace. Time to engage—enjoy the Adventure!


The Power of a Father – Meet Jacob – Genesis 25:21-18.

1. **NO SAINT** → Jacob is largely regarded an unrighteous man. He was no saint, until God got hold of his life. Even that took a wrestling match!
2. **AMBITION** → Jacob possessed an uncommon amount of that common characteristic. For most of his life, he was determined to have his way. If necessary, he would lie, cheat, and steal to accomplish that –a “deceiver,” his brother called him. Sound familiar? Jacob is like looking at myself in the mirror—extraordinarily personal and painful!
3. **HEART ISSUE** → By painting an honest picture of a dishonest man like Jacob—warts and all—God goes to the heart of our human experience. He shows us life in the raw—and how His grace and power operate in the midst of it.
4. **BORN-AGAIN EXPERIENCE** → Jacob is an amazing story of God’s grace. He left home, running for his life because his brother, Esau, wanted to kill him. But God in His love and grace appeared to Jacob in a dream at Bethel, which led to his own story of being born-again.
5. **BECAME A SPIRITUAL LEADER** → Jacob spent over 20 years living a miserable life. Though he married, he ended up with two wives – which was a marital disaster. Though he was a wealthy man, he never attained happiness and fulfillment –until he came back home and made things right with his brother and his father. It was then that he finally took charge of his whole household and became the spiritual leader God intended him to be. God will discipline us –not because He wants to punish us because He loves us. Only God can turn the ashes of our lives into something beautiful (Galatians 6:6-10).

The Power of a Father – We Need to be Fathered!

-- I Corinthians 13:11

1. **A LOSS OF VISION** → Our culture is in deep trouble, and at the heart of its trouble is its loss of a vision for manhood. It's difficult to know how to maintain our masculine balance in this "gender-neutral" culture.
2. **THREE CRITICAL QUESTIONS:**
 1. What is a man?
 2. What processes produce a man?
 3. How do you know when you've become a man?
3. **NEED A MODEL** → Where does a boy go to find a manly sense of himself? Who confers upon him the title and responsibilities of manhood? Over the last few decades, this culture has steadily and relentlessly undermined healthy notions of what it means to be a man. Manhood is no longer a unique calling; it's now seem more as a problem to be overcome.
4. **HEARTS OF FATHERS** → Many men today are searching for their true masculine identity. The *best hope* lies in the hearts of fathers. We need to understand the journey—the process that calls sons to be godly men—a passage from boy to man. We need to know the *how*!



ACTION: Journal This!

1. What stories of your Father do you carry — stories of pain, or healing?
2. How have you been “fathered” by someone other than your Father?
3. Who have you helped to become a better man?