NEWMARKET COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Connecting people with God
within authentic community
where all are welcome.*

Word Notes: Sunday 9th June 2019

Tony Hodge: Jacob's Troubles -1, Sibling Trouble

Key Text: Genesis 25:19-27

From God's first words regarding Jacob's life it would appear he will have a life full of troubles, but lets' face it – he doesn't exactly help matters by taking the initiative to force Esau into second place regarding his inheritance and blessing. The context of this extended family drama (half of Genesis) is the very foundation of the nation Israel and God is building something very important, a nation from whom will come the salvation of the world and one which will be an example to peoples and cultures in this early world. The big lesson through this time is learning to live by faith.

For us today this is still a lesson we should learn. Troubles are a normal part of life (John 16:33) but they are not just an annoyance – how we live and react to times of trouble build character in us (Romans 5:1-5) and, just as with the nation of Israel, speak to those around us of God's love, provision and salvation.

(A background Fact Sheet to this series is on the NCC website https://tinyurl.com/y5gwb2of)

Study & Application

How do you react to troubles and difficulties? Discuss some examples in your life with the group.

In John 16:33 Jesus said that his disciples (and so us) would have trouble. What was his reason for telling the disciples this wonderful news?

Jesus also said to "Be of good cheer" in troubles – how is this possible, what do we have within us to change or view of our circumstances?

In Romans 5:1-5 Paul talks of character development that can occur in times of trouble when we live by faith. How does this match up with your experience?

Prayer

Pray through the Lords Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) one verse at a time, expanding the words to apply to what we have discussed today and any specific troubles or difficulties you are facing. Remember to give thanks for those situations the Lord has brought you through as well.