

SPIRITUAL TASK – JACOB WRESTLES WITH MAN (Genesis 32)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story Jacob was on his way to reunite with his brother Esau. He became deeply afraid and distressed. The night before they met he wrestled with a Man all night long and wouldn't let go of the Man until he was blessed by Him.

Meaning There is a time when truth (Jacob) is to be the dominant force in our lives. But the goal is that good (Esau) may become the dominant force. The transition from truth to good is a difficult one for us and come only through wrestlings and trials. Once temptation and the wrestling match begins, we, like Jacob, need to hold on until the temptation has passed (daybreak) and then the blessings will come (the blessing from the angel). Giving up (in) gets us nowhere.

Task This week notice moments when you find yourself feeling ready to give up on something good you are working towards. Pay attention to where within yourself the resistance is coming from. Consider the importance of the good thing you want for yourself. If you find that it is important to you make a commitment at that moment not to give up. Ask the Lord for His strength to get through the struggle.