



<b>DATE</b>	November 4, 2018
<b>SPEAKER</b>	Nathan Jager
<b>TITLE</b>	Call Me Jacob
<b>SERIES</b>	Do you know who you are? God does. Often times we spend our life pretending to be someone we're not. Let's take a closer look at the life of Jacob as we discover why God can't bless who you're pretending to be.

Pastor Nathan reminded us that we are all complicated. It is easy to become dissatisfied with who we are, and long to be prettier, richer, smarter, stronger, kinder, or to be something different than who we are.

'Being you' is okay. Romans 12:6-8 tells us:

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

1. God loves you always, even when you don't love yourself. He is always there, waiting patiently for you. Do you wrestle with yourself and put yourself down for something in your life that you are hiding from others?
2. As Jacob competed to obtain his brother's (Esau's) birthright and as he later wrestled with God (Genesis 25:21-26 and Genesis 32:26-27), what was it that he desired or hoped to gain each time?
3. Pastor Nathan illustrated that God cannot bless the person we pretend to be, but will bless us when we admit who we really are. Write down a prayer asking Jesus, the Lord of who you really are, to help you realize your true identity in Him, reveal His plan and purpose for you (Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 29:11), and enable you to live out these truths in practical ways each day.
4. If you have siblings, did you ever compete to out-perform your sibling or be your parents' favorite? Did this need continue throughout your life or fade away? What lesson, if any, did you learn from this experience?
5. Have you ever known someone that was very much a 'me first' person? How did that attitude affect their relationships with others? Did they ever drop that 'me first' mentality? If so, what caused the change? Do you think you are brave enough to have a conversation with such a person to help them become less self-centered? If so, what would you say?

Reflect on Galatians 1:10: "Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ."