

Genesis: God and Man

Jacob Went On His Journey

Genesis 29

Previously

- Jacob has to leave, Isaac charges him to find a wife in the right place
- From Rebekah's family
- Esau tries to compensate
- Jacob has nothing, sleeps on a rock
- Vision of God at the top of a ladder/stairway
- The vow at the rock: If God will, then I will
- But God already promised

Are there things God has promised you that you're waiting to come true before you believe him?

Genesis 29:1-14

Jacob went on his journey - Haran, up between the Tigris and Euphrates

Remember how Abraham stopped there on his way out of Ur?

Modern day Syria

Keep your eye on Syria

Isa 17:1 NKJV - The burden against Damascus. "Behold, Damascus will cease from [being] a city, And it will be a ruinous heap.

The land of the people of the east

Same land as his mom and grandfather Abraham. God was really moving in this family in this region.

Talk about taking a journey...remember, there was no GPS, no exact maps and landmarks. How many people had he asked along the way?

A large stone to protect the well from the heat and others

A good place to meet people of the area

Haran, great!

Laban? "We know him"

What sort of answer is that?

Was it, yeah, we know him, great guy
Or was it...yeah, we know him...

Rachel was a shepherdess

He tries to herd away the other shepherd boys from Rachel as she's approaching
Another typical guy move there

Jacob decides to roll the stone away when he sees her
Oh what guys will jump to do for a pretty girl, to impress her

But he was also relieved and overjoyed to have found his family
Interesting similarity to how Eliezer found Rebekah for Isaac at a well

The confirmation that this was the right place, right family.

All of his relatives. Willing to serve there.

Asking God if Ashlee was the right one

Asking God about places to serve

What to do where to go

Confirmations

Mar 16:14-20 NKJV - Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons (paul and the apostles); they will speak with new tongues (acts); "they will take up serpents (paul); and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover (peter, paul, etc)." So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with [them] and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

When God works, there is clear evidence.

When man works, it is empty.

The real evidence is fruit that remains

Jhn 15:16 NKJV - "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Jacob kissed Rachel...

Today he'd end up in the news and fired from his job

But perhaps it made sense, especially with the cultural kissing that still goes on to this day in Europe and the Middle East

1Co 16:20 NKJV - All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

Laban overjoyed

What did Jacob tell him?

Surely you are my bone and my flesh. Was Laban identifying with Jacob's craftiness, or just that he was family?

:15-20

The vacation is over, time to get down to business

Alright, if you're going to stay here, you gotta work

You can't mooch off of me and i can't treat you with more favor than my own family

2Th 3:10-13 NKJV - For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. But [as for] you, brethren, do not grow weary [in] doing good.

What should your wages be?

Knowing Laban, he knew what Jacob was there for...a wife

So I think this is a loaded question...he was not going to give his daughters away for free.

You're going to have to work.

Leah - weary(ied) - beautiful name! ... weary. Perhaps the pregnancy wore out her mom, or when they saw her she looked tired.

Eyes were delicate, tender

tender, soft, delicate, weak

tender, delicate (of flesh)

weak of heart, timid

soft (of words)

gentle words (subst)

Mabe her name had to do with how she looked. She wasn't a sight for sore eyes, she was a sight with sore eyes.

Perhaps not having the physical beauty let her inward beauty shine. We place far too much emphasis on outward beauty, especially when picking a mate.

Thankfully my wife didn't place high beauty standards on who she'd marry. I did though!

Rachel - ewe - interesting that she is a shepherdess. You'd think the pretty girl wouldn't want to get muddy and be out with the smelly animals all day
But Rachel did.

Perhaps Rachel was pretty fit along with being beautiful

Pro 31:17 NKJV - She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms.

She is a capable, beautiful women. That is a powerful combination in the world.

Jacob loved Rachel

Love at first sight. The word can mean all sorts of love, but doesn't seem to carry the connotation of lust. He really did love this girl.

A young, beautiful, capable, hard working woman, how could he not?

He wasn't the outdoor guy, so perhaps they were the odd couple, but it was love.

But man Jacob, where'd you learn your skills? Right off the bat he offers 7 years.

Love is a powerful thing.

Huey Lewis, The Power of Love

The power of love is a curious thing

Make a one man weep, make another man sing

Change a hawk to a little white dove

More than a feeling, that's the power of love

Sounds to me like Jacob was head over heels. SEVEN YEARS.

Start with a lower offer Jacob! Seriously. I know you love her, but you don't have to prove it for seven years. People get married a lot faster than seven years.

Maybe he knew because she was the younger and was trying to sweeten the deal, trying to give time for Leah to get married off...

Laban...sure, it's better to give her to you than someone else...gee, thanks Dad!

Jacob served those seven years

He worked. It didn't seem long. He truly loved Rachel.

The deceiver, the heel catcher, had found something worth living and serving for: love.

Seven years seemed like a few days**:21-30****Give me my wife**

I've done the work. Pay up.

It's been seven years.

I'm sure Laban didn't have it marked on his calendar. He didn't really care.

But Jacob had a countdown on his phone, an alarm set.

I'll bet he couldn't sleep the night before.

Laban gives Leah

Well now Jacob, you didn't say WHICH wife

How do you confuse this? How much drinking was done at the feast? How dark was it?

Did he not say "Rachel, I love you, i've waited for this day."

Was Rachel not at the feast, at the wedding?

So many shady things going on.

"They sow the wind,

And reap the whirlwind.

Hosea 8:7a

Jacob had worked for seven years. Hard and honest work.

But his life of deceit had caught up with him.

He had let his guard down. The trickster was now the tricked.

WHY THEN HAVE YOU DECEIVED ME?

Laban gives this patronizing answer...you see Jacob, we have this custom...

BUT WE AGREED SEVEN YEARS AGO

Side note that seven is the number of perfection, completeness

Serve another seven years. Can you imagine? I'd be fuming, so ripped off.

How does Leah feel this moment?

- She knew Jacob loved Rachel
- She knew the deal Jacob had with her dad for Rachel
- Yet she's the one who got dressed up
- She's the one who walked down the aisle (so to speak)
- She's the one who was wrapped up in the arms of love that night...but had to know it wasn't for her

Where is she mentally, spiritually, emotionally?

She had to have been so wearied out to go along with this, willingly.

A weary person settles for whatever they can get and she thought this is all I'm worth.

How tragic for Leah. I don't care about Jacob getting ripped off at this moment. I'm thinking of how Leah must feel. What her state is.

This family. Messed up. Yet look at how interested God is in them.

All of these messed up situations, yet God has the waypoints on the spiritual and historical map for them to get to...they just spend these times between them in the strangest and least loving places.

One verse, seven more years

Think about all the times in those seven years, thinking about this, living with this, how with every swing of his labor, thinking about Rachel and getting ripped off and having to put up with it if he wants her. Every night coming home to Leah. Every day her thinking about how her husband doesn't love her at all and is only married to her because her dad tricked him.

Was there another feast? It's not mentioned, but I'd hope so for Rachel's sake

Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. No doubt.

Served seven more years...so he was content to stay there in this situation. Perhaps he didn't feel prepared to leave yet. Still dependent on Laban to some degree.

:31-35

Yet the next verse says that Leah was unloved.

The Lord saw it.

The message is titled Jacob Went On His Journey because we're following Jacob in this area of scripture.

But if we focus on what the Lord is doing in this chapter, He's looking at Leah.

The one with weary eyes.

The one who perhaps causes weary eyes.

God is looking steadily upon. God would bring her a husband and use her to mother several tribes of a great nation of history.

Did she cry out to him? I don't know. It doesn't say. But it says the LORD saw and opened her womb.

She was unloved by Jacob, but loved by the LORD.

God opened Leah's womb, but not Rachel

Rachel was barren. This seems to be a family issue.

Sarai/Sarah

Rebekah

Now Rachel

Leah bears four sons (and I'd guess some daughters too)

Reuben - behold, a son -

The LORD has surely looked on my affliction.

Now therefore, my husband will love me."

How sad that she thought her husband would start loving her because she showed her worth of bearing a son. This is tragic.

To have your self worth caught up in what society says, what your family says, or what your spouse says

To love someone and be unloved and want them to love you

To think that you could ever make them love you

Again, the mental state, the emotional abuse. Yet, God saw her, and loved her.

Know this, that God sees you, and loves you. Even when no one else does. Even when your dad doesn't. Even when your mom isn't around. Even when your husband or wife wants nothing to do with you or uses you.

Jacob didn't love her, yet they got pregnant and had children...that must have been awkward, demoralizing, and sad.

Rachel's barren, so let me try to have kids with Leah. ...

Simeon - heard

**Because the LORD has heard that I am hated
... all of this to bring her to a relationship with the Lord**

Utmost 3/24

When you see a person who is close to grasping the claims of Jesus Christ, you know that your influence has been used in the right direction. And when you begin to see that person in the middle of a difficult and painful struggle, don't try to prevent it, but pray that his difficulty will grow even ten times stronger, until no power on earth or in hell could hold him away from Jesus Christ. Over and over again, we try to be amateur providences in someone's life. We are indeed amateurs, coming in and actually preventing God's will and saying, "This person should not have to experience this difficulty." Instead of being friends of the Bridegroom, our sympathy gets in the way. One day that person will say to us, "You are a thief; you stole my desire to follow Jesus, and because of you I lost sight of Him."

Beware of rejoicing with someone over the wrong thing, but always look to rejoice over the right thing. "...the friend of the bridegroom...rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice.

Levi - "joined to - Now my husband will be attached to me...like he might not love me, but he'll be close with me and I'll be the wife people know because i bore him THREE sons. That this son would be the one to bring them together, even if love isn't involved.

*Interesting that Levi becomes the tribe of the priesthood
About bringing God and Man together until the Messiah comes*

Judah - Yěhuwdah - praised - Jesus would come from the tribe of Judah

Now I will praise the Lord

God keeps blessing me. He has heard me. My husband doesn't love me. He won't even really be associated with me even though I've born him three and now four sons.

So I'm done with trying to live my life for them. I'm going to praise the Lord. The Lord hears me. The Lord is joined to me. He has blessed me.

She stops bearing children. She got the point of it all. No need for her to have more children. She was married to God in her heart now.

We went on the physical journey with Jacob, but we were taken on the spiritual journey of Leah.

Let us be more like Leah, the one with the weary eyes, but ends up with the joyful spirit of praise.