

**W030113a – 04/22/26**  
**Genesis 27-30**  
**“The Life of Jacob-Part One”**

**Introduction**

- Tonight we will continue our study of the Old Testament and the Book of Genesis, remember

**The word Genesis means “beginnings.”**

- And truly so many things in scripture have their beginning in the book of Genesis
  - The universe, life in general
  - Man, marriage
  - Sin and evil, Language, government, nations
  - And specifically, we will see the nation of Israel
- In fact, understanding what this book is about is the beginning is really a good way to divide up our look at this book

**Outline for the Book of Genesis**

**#1 – The Beginning of All Nations – Genesis 1-11**

**The Creation – Genesis 1-2**

**The Fall – Genesis 3-5**

**The Flood – Genesis 6-9**

**The Tables of Nations – Genesis 10-11**

**#2 – The Beginning of the Jewish Nation – Genesis 12-50**

**Abraham – Genesis 12-23**

**Isaac – Genesis 24-27**

**Jacob – Genesis 28-36**

**Joseph – Genesis 37-50**

**Tonight, we move on to the third guy in the list of the Patriarchs of Israel, a man by the name of Jacob**

- And we saw last week that the time came for Issac to bless his son and give him the double portion and even though Esau had sold the birthright and God had clearly picked Jacob, Issac still wanted to bless Esau

**And this created that sordid story of Rebecca gluing hair all over her smooth skinned son so that he would fool his blind father Issac and get the blessing**

- And though it seemingly worked, it really didn't for Rebecca because Esau was more than mad and was going to kill Jacob
  - And so Rebecca sent Jacob away, she says, until your brother calms down
  - But in actuality she will never see her favorite son again, she will die before Jacob returns from his 20 year exile in Haran

**And the story of that 20 year exile is the text that is before us tonight and as we work our way through it, there are four things I would like you to write down and there are all, tonight's bible study is brought to you by the letter "D"**

**The Life of Jacob – Genesis 28-30**

**#1 – Dedication – Genesis 28:1-22**

**#2 – Dowry – Genesis 29:1-20**

**#3 – Deception – Genesis 29:21-30**

**#4 – Division – Genesis 29:31-30:24**

- So let's look at these one at time tonight

**The Life of Jacob – Genesis 28-30**

**#1 – Dedication – Genesis 28:1-22**

- Mostly likely hearing the news from traveling caravans, Isaac hears that Laban, his wife's brother, has some daughters, perfect he thinks– go there my son and get a bride
  - Don't get a bride from these girls of Canaan
  - And although Esau totally misunderstands what his mom and dad are looking for – Jacob head outs

**Jacob heads out from everything he has ever known**

- Probably feeling pretty alone, probably a little scared
  - And he stops just north of what is Jerusalem today in a place he will later name

## **“Bethel” means “the house of God”**

- Jacob grabs a rock for a pillow and grabs some shut eye

### **But God meets him right there where he is at**

- Jacob has this dream of a ladder reaching to heaven
  - And angels ascending and descending on it
  - And God was at the top – saying – “I am the God of Abraham, your grandfather and Isaac your father”
- And I want to be your God too
  - And I love this – the Lord just meets him

### **Jacob was certainly more spiritually inclined than his brother Esau, but up to this point in the story there is no indication of Jacob having a deep relationship with God - and yet – God just meets him - He thinks he is alone He thinks no one is for him**

- And then God shows up and says – I am
  - I am with you and I am for you!!!

### **And church we need to remember this – we like Jacob often forget – God is with us!**

- We experience trials - We experience the blues where once again no matter how much I tell you as we looked at last Sunday that nothing but Jesus will fulfill you, we still look for fulfillment in other things

### **We think – I am all alone – no one is for me**

- God would say – wait a second, just when did I start to count for no one?

### **God reveals Himself to Jacob and this becomes Jacob’s moment of dedication**

- The moment when God became the God of Abraham, Isaac and now Jacob
  - And friends this must happen to every one of us
- When we decide for ourselves – you will be my God, not just a god, not just the god of my parents, or my pastors, or my church – you will be my God
  - Lord I am responding to you meeting me and revealing yourself to me – Lord you are my God!

**Now Jacob's dedication is one of a young believer – putting a bunch of “ifs” and “thens” – like God is really impressed with you – if you show up for me God, I will let you be my God – oh wow thanks!!!**

- I wasn't complete as the Alpha and Omega
  - I wasn't complete in the perfect fellowship of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
- You are going to let me be your God and will give me 10 percent of what you make – wow, now I can afford to do things, thanks Jacob!

**This is a dedication prayer of a young believer**

- so much better if you and I will say to the Lord
  - God you are good and I am yours no matter what!

**The Life of Jacob – Genesis 28-30**

**#1 – Dedication – Genesis 28:1-22**

**#2 – Dowry – Genesis 29:1-20**

**Jacob travels over 500 miles and comes to the place his grandparents Abraham and Sarah were from, the place where his mom was from, Haran**

- And no doubt he knew the story of how his mom, Rebekah met the servant of Abraham at a well – so once he gets to the land, that is where he begins
  - This well is like a dating app for the Patriarchs
- He comes to a well and starts asking questions, anybody know Laban, I am supposed to find Laban?
  - And while Jacob is asking questions - he sees her
- Rachel who the Bible describes as Beautiful in form and appearance – and you know you what that means – she is beautiful in every way – and she had sheep, a symbol of wealth

**This is like in our day, seeing a beautiful girl as she steps out of her Maserati, “Hey!” “Heyyyy”**

- this is what happening to Jacob
  - this beautiful girl is right in front of him and she is wealthy with sheep

## **Rich and beautiful**

- And verse 16 contrasts Rachel with her sister
  - The English says “Leah’s eyes were delicate”
  - And that can either mean she had delicate eyes or the way she looked made your eyes hurt
  - And I think it is the latter because of the contrast, Leah had delicate eyes, but Rachel was beautiful

## **Studying through the book of Genesis maybe you wonder, think about the Patriarchs and who they married**

- Abraham married Sarah, she was so beautiful Pharaoh wanted her as wife when she was 90, same with Rebekah, and Rachel

## **I was reading and wondering if these are the founders – why isn’t every Jewish person a supermodel – I mean talk about great stock, but obviously some Jews are amazingly beautiful, but not all of them, so why?**

- And the answer – Leah
  - Before the night is out we will discover, over half of the tribes of Israel come from Leah, not Rachel
- So there are many beautiful Jewish people but some are descended from Leah
  - They come with the girl who made your eyes hurt, she was so ugly
  - Anyway – just a side note – Jacob wants Rachel
  - Jacob is in love
- He tries to impress her – delicate Jacob, turns into Heman, I just picture him ripping his suit, going incredible hulk all over that well
  - It normally took many men to open, but not today, because Jacob has seen his woman!

## **Jacob – Mr. Pastel pants, Mr. I own every Mirah Carey Album – He finds the strength to move the stone off the well**

- Then he kisses her – oh wow!

**Now, this is the only occurrence by the way of a man kissing a girl who is not his wife in the scriptures**

- but to read into this sexual advancement is to read into the scriptures something that is not there – most likely this was a normal greeting, overcome with emotion, I mean he is still Jacob now – he would kiss Rachael as his uncle Laban would soon kiss him

**But none the less, Rachel runs to tell her Dad – this man in pastel pants just ripped the stone off the well, and then kissed me – He says he is related to Aunt Rebekah – what should we do Dad?**

- And Laban then welcomes Jacob into his house, because Laban remembers Abraham's servant and how he came with so many gifts – this young kid must be loaded

**Laban may have thought that, but Jacob was not – He had to escape from his home, no time to bring the family fortune with him – so Jacob begins to work for Laban for his room and board**

- But a month in, Laban says, you should not work for me for free – name your wage
  - And Jacob says – I want to marry your daughter, but I will work for her for seven years, because I have no money to give as a dowry

**In those days if you wanted to marry, you would provide the father of your bride a dowry and the idea was really alimony in advance**

- if you left the girl or died, she would return to her Father's house and be provided for by the money in your dowry
  - but Jacob had no money and so he worked for seven years to provide one

**And the seven years seem like only a few days verse 20 says and every girl in the room says, ah!!!**

- Now before we move on – do you see what amazing motivator you ladies can be to a man?

**Jacob who normally prefers to dwell inside, not work hard, not really motivated, remember he liked to dwell in tents, in doors**

- That is until he meets Rachel – now he is willing to sweat outside for seven years to get his girl
  - It is amazing the motivation a woman can be to a man – I could tell when my son started to like girls years ago when he started showering and smelling good, which was not an activity he did often as a young man – amazing what girls can do!
- Men will battle it out all day at work, beaten down on every side and it is no problem – why – because there is a woman at home that needs me to provide for her, there is a family - It is huge motivation – and ladies don't sell yourself short

**So many girls don't realize the motivation they are, so they give up the goods before the man has committed himself to her in marriage, before he has a job, before he can provide for the family or wants to be committed to her – and all I have to say is ladies don't underestimate your worth**

- Jacob works seven years for the girl of his dreams
  - Because he is in love - this is true love
- And please see this because love is what church? – never having to say you are sorry (that is stupidest thing I have ever heard) – no, love...

**“Love is patient...does not seek its own. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

- Love is patient, and if there is a man telling you, I love you baby, but I just can't wait until we are married
  - The truth is, he is lust with you, but not in love

**And instead of giving in, I encourage you single ladies to see what a huge motivation a pure relationship with you is for a guy to do things right – but he will leave – then you don't want that one – believe me!**

- Jacob works seven years and then, oh man now the story gets good – from a literary standpoint, not from Jacob's standpoint

### **The Life of Jacob – Genesis 28-30**

#### **#1 – Dedication – Genesis 28:1-22**

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- At the end of seven years, Jacob says, it is time Laban, give me my wife, as the NIV, the not holding anything back version says, “give me my wife so I can sleep with her”
  - Jacob is serious – he doesn't want to talk about his feelings, he doesn't want a bunch of pomp and circumstances – hey I worked seven years, it is time – give me my wife!

### **And so Laban, throws a party, the wedding takes place**

- But when it is time to consummate the marriage, Laban switches out Rachel, the Hebrew Hottie, for Leah, the ow my eyes hurt girl
  - Now how in the world is this even possible??

**Well understand in that culture, weddings took place at night, and though I'm sure Rachel was the one at the vows and at the feast, when it was time for the marriage to be consummated, again it would have been dark, candles, no florescence - the bride would have been fully veiled - Jacob probably had a lot to drink, that seems to be a problem for the patriarchs**

- And yet when he wakes up in the morning, expecting to roll over and see his Hebrew hottie, and instead, what oh no, my eyes hurt – what is going on here?

**And I love it, he runs out to Laban and says, ‘why have you deceived me?’**

**Now isn't that poetic – Jacob, whose name means deceiver, who just a few chapters ago, deceived his blind dad into blessing him**

- why did you deceive me? Are you serious?
  - Jacob - what goes around, comes around!

**God often times does this**

- you run into people in your life who irritate you to no end
  - and why? – often because they are just like you!
  - and I believe God does this on purpose – to show you what it is like to be around you – so hopefully you can realize it and grow

**God puts Jacob the deceiver, right next to Laban, an even bigger deceiver and here we go**

- Why have you deceived me?
  - Oh Jacob – we have a little custom, didn't I tell you?

It reminds me of the man and his wife who stayed at a hotel for three days and when he was checking out he looked at his bill and said, what is this - \$25 bucks for a fruit basket? – so he says to the clerk, We didn't eat the fruit basket, to which the man replied – well that's not my fault, it was there - Hugh, so the man paid his bill and when the clerk look at it, it was \$150 short – hey what's the big idea – well I charged you \$50 a day for kissing my wife – kissing your wife? - I didn't kiss your wife – well that not my fault – she was there!

**That is Jacob and Laban for the rest of the story**

➤ two con men, pulling one con after another on each other  
**Laban says, Oh Jacob, didn't I tell you, we have this little custom where I am from that the older girl must be married off before the younger – I didn't mention that???**

- But no worries, fulfill Leah's honeymoon week and then I will let you marry Rachel as long as work for me for another seven years
  - And friends understand this had been Laban's plan all along – 14 years of free labor – that is some dowry

**It you had to work for you bride instead of paying a dowry, the normal rate would be 8 and half months of labor**

- the equivalent of about \$50,000 in today's money – well Jacob worked 20 times that to marry his wife Rachel – Laban was a dirt bag

**Now please, as we continue, don't think in anyway that the Bible here is saying that polygamy is okay**

- the Bible is rightly recording what happened to Jacob, it is not condoning what happened to Jacob
  - there will be many problems that will come from the polygamy in Jacob's life
  - I mean can you image? – you and your sister are married to the same man – and your sister is younger and a whole lot better looking than you – do you think that would be uncomfortable?
- It certainly was and we see how much so, in our last section I have entitled “division”, as we see a great division between these two sisters as they battle it out for the affection of their husband

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- Much to learn here – I mean can you image? – you are Leah, your sister is your husband's favorite, because she is really pretty and you are not
  - But you start having kids

**Which by the way ladies, this may not be comfortable to hear, but this chapter should teach you something you need to hear about men**

- You associate sex with love, normally for you, to be intimate with someone there has to be a deep emotional connection

**And that is why adultery is so devastating to you**

- how could my husband have a deep connection with another women?

**But understand – not to in any way lessen the seriousness of adultery, it is sin, its rips apart marriages, it is one the 10 commandments – men if you contemplating – you need to repent - Am I clear?**

- But women what you sometimes don't understand, is that for men, an emotional connection is not needed for a man to want to be physically with a woman
  - The standards for many men, especially men not controlled by the Holy Spirit, well the standard is like is she breathing, not dead is the qualification she must attain to
- Women don't get this and so – and listen – what this means is women often times give sex, hoping to get love
  - But it doesn't work – because that is not what the physical act is about for many men

**You doubt me – just follow the story**

- Does Jacob love Leah? – no

**Is he even really attracted to Leah? – No**

- Yet what keeps happening??? – she keeps having kids
  - Now how does that happen, it was not immaculate conception – this isn't the first Christmas story

**It is that Jacob and many men like him, have a different standard of who they will be intimate with and it is not, I have to love her, I have to be attracted and committed to her**

- And I say this, not to be crude, but to stop you precious gals from thinking, if I just give him sex, he will love me
  - No, sadly he will not, don't get ripped off
  - Love is patient, Love does not seek its own

**Well back to the situation – Rachel is loved, Leah is unloved, but she is having kids**

- so you can image the holidays

**“ah, is Jacob hanging out with you again, my pretty sister Rachel”**

- well, have you met my brood of children, it would really nice if they had some cousins

**Now that is not in the text, but don't you know it happened ladies? – You know it did – some of you would pull that**

- I mean I just described to you how men are jerks, I am close to understanding how women can be mean too? Am I close?
  - “Oh where are your kids pretty girl?”

**Rachel has had it, she comes to Jacob, give me children oh I'll die and we looked at this on Sunday but**

- Jacob gets mad, and say, “hey, it's not my fault, your sister has plenty of kids, obviously I work”
  - you are the problem

**But unlike his Father Isaac who faced the same problem with his wife Rebekah, and yet prayed for her that God would open her womb - Jacob and Rachel go back a generation to grandpa Abraham and grandma Sarah as a model**

- Rachel says – take my handmaid, have a child with her and I will raise the child - So Jacob gets a third wife Bilhah and has two kids with her

**Which prompts Leah who realizes she has stopped bearing, to give Jacob a fourth wife, Zilpah and Jacob has two kids with her**

- By the way this is an excellent example of how culturally accepted norms were adopted by men and women in the Bible resulting in problems
  - Just because it was okay in that culture, does not mean it is okay to the Lord, and yet Jacob and Rachel fall for this

**David will as well with his nine wives and a house of concubines and if you think David is bad, his son Solomon takes living by cultural standards and not the Word of God to another level**

- And I mention that to you because what in our culture is acceptable, that we are tempted to adopt in our lives?

**oh we don't provide an alternative wife for our husband**

- we don't condone polygamy or slavery
  - because those things are not accepted by our culture
- but what do we accept, what do we allow in our lives?
  - that your neighbors would say – that is normal, that is no problem, don't worry about that
  - the culture wouldn't bat an eye – it's just pornography
- but, it is none the less still sin
  - personally, I believe something's we put before our eyes, something we allow our families to watch
  - something's we allow in our minds, in our ears, or in our mouth –oh its only day time TV, it's only flirting via facebook
- the culture would say – that is no big deal

**But the Spirit of God would say – I love you, but that breaks my heart and grieves my soul**

- and wise will be the Christian man or women – who does not just accept every culture norm like David did, like Solomon did, like Jacob and Rachel did

**But instead of accepting, take each thing to God and say – the whole world says it is okay**

- is it okay with you? – you who I declare to be my Lord and King – Lord is it okay with you?

**Jacob and Rachel do not and this crazy competition continues**

- and listen is God is still at work? – yes!
  - Romans 8:28 – God works all things, even our poor choices, for good, God is still at work here

## **Because these 12 boys from 4 wives, will become the 12 tribes of Israel**

- But listen to me, please listen to me, just because God can bring beauty from the ashes should not stop us from pausing and learning from Jacob and Leah, and Rachel's mistakes

## **Rachel and Leah are trying to find satisfaction in the love of their husband and through the kids**

- You see this in the way Leah starts naming them
  - Oh no my husband will love me, I have given him a son, two sons, three sons
- And I think she finally gets it, because she names the fourth son, Judah "I will just praise the Lord"
  - I am never going to find fulfillment in that lug nut Jacob – so Lord I will find my fulfillment in you Lord
  - Leah seems to get it

## **Rachel does not – she is convinced that what she is missing in her heart is children**

- and if she can just have children, then she will be happy and fulfilled

## **But even when she finally gets a child – she isn't happy, how do I know?**

- because look at verse 24 - as soon as she has Joseph, she names him, "Lord add to me another son"
  - Give me more kids else I die!
- She is not satisfied in fact, she is speaking prophetically

## **Because in Genesis 35, we won't get there tonight, but God does give her another son**

- And yet, instead of fulfilling the deep longing of her heart, she dies in child birth
  - Never finding her fulfillment in God

## **Now – I'm not saying she wasn't saved, and she won't be in heaven**

- Just as much as I am not saying that if you don't find your fulfillment in Jesus, you won't be in heaven either

## **I am not saying that, I don't believe that**

- But I am saying that if you don't find your fulfillment in Christ
  - If you won't stop looking for fulfillment in a husband, in a wife, in children, in a job or a ministry
  - Then you when you die, you will still go to heaven, assuming you have dealt with your sin
  - But you will have lived a miserable life
- Always looking for something to fulfill you, always thinking you are victim and yet everything you have ever needed for life and fulfillment has been there all along
  - The apostles Paul and Peter tell us..

**“Now godliness with contentment is great gain.” – 1 Timothy 6:6**

**“His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness” – 2 Peter 1:3**

- Learn this lesson or your life will be painful and unfulfilling just like it was for Rachel
  - Read Psalm 86 and make some comments