

S030112a – 04/18/26
“Give Me...or I die!”
Genesis 30:1

Introduction – Read Genesis 30:1

- This Wednesday night we are going to look at Genesis 28-30 and begin to follow the life of Jacob

Who is going to go back to the very same well where Abraham’s servant found a bride for his father Isaac, Jacob is going to head back to that same well and find a wife for himself

- That well is like Christian mingle for the patriarchs

But once Jacob finds Rachel, that is when the story really starts to get good, from a literary standpoint, not from Jacob’s perspective

- Because his father in law is going to trick him into marrying not just Rachel whom Jacob loves and is attracted to, but her older sister Leah
 - But how it is even possible to switch brides on the wedding and have the groom not notice until morning? We will talk about that
 - We will also see where the 12 tribes of Israel come from and learn some things about men and women that are very important for navigating things of life
- And the story is just so good and so insightful on so many levels – I cannot encourage you enough to be with us this Wednesday Night if you can

But this morning we read just one verse, Genesis 30:1 but to understand why this verse is so important we need to back up to verse one of chapter 29 for context

- **Start reading chapter 29:1-20**
 - Jacob leaves his father’s house, basically because his brother Esau wants to kill him

He travels 500 miles to Haran, he is looking for a wife and then he sees Rachel

- The Bible describes her in verse 17 as beautiful in form and appearance – and she is related to his mother, she is the family he is looking for

And Jacob is love struck – he all of sudden has the strength of 10 men and he rolls that stone off of that well

- He runs up and kisses her, because Jacob is an emotional guy and just can't contain himself, very not acceptable in our culture – the emotional part sure, just not the force kiss and we will talk about that this Wednesday – but after staying at his uncle Laban's house for a month, Laban says, you are not going to just work for me for free – name your wages

And Jacob says, let me work seven years to marry your daughter Rachel

- and Laban says, perfect, it is better that I give her to you than anyone else – work seven years for me and then I will let you marry (but notice Laban never says “marry Rachel”
 - you know Jacob is a little bit of a deceiver, he was the one gluing goat hair all over himself to trick his blind dad
- but in meeting uncle Laban, he is going to meet the man with a PH.D in deceit
 - yes work seven years, and I will let you marry, end of sentence
- and it says in verse 20 that those seven years seemed like only a few days because Jacob loved Rachel so much – and all the ladies say ah, so sweet!

But at the end of seven years, Jacob says, it is time to get married and notice what happens next – the plot sickens or I mean thickens

- **read Genesis 29:21-30**
 - it comes time for the wedding and instead of giving Jacob, Rachel as wife, Laban gives Jacob Leah

Now listen, this is so important – not only was that not the girl he was in love with or had agreed to work seven years for

- But when the Bible describes Rachel in Genesis 29:17 it describes her as beautiful in form and appearance, and it does so in contrast with Leah
 - It says in the English, “Leah had delicate eyes” and that could mean that her eyes were sensitive, but most likely and most commentators agree, it means that when you looked at her, your eyes hurt
 - Listen don’t get mad at me, I didn’t write it, I just teach it!
- But because the description of Leah is given in contrast to how beautiful Rachel was, most Bible scholars think Genesis 29:17 is describing Leah as one you would look at and think – wow, ahh

So Laban sneaks Leah into the mix and Jacob consummates the marriage with her instead of with Rachel

- Now on Wednesday we will talk about how that was possible in that culture, because we can’t imagine
 - We look at this story and think – ah I would have noticed someone other than my fiancé was the one who met me at the altar to say “I do”
 - And even if not then, believe me by the wedding night I would have figured it out
- But their weddings were not like our weddings and so on Wednesday we will describe how this story is possible

But sufficient for our study this morning – it happened

- Laban tricks Jacob into marrying the wrong girl, oh we have this custom where the younger cannot marry before the older, (didn’t I mention that in the seven years you were working for me) well Laban tricks Jacob into marrying” old makes my eyes hurt” and then gets him to work 7 more years in order to marry Rachel

Now they would be married one week later, but Jacob was now obligated to serve Laban for free for another seven years

- Jacob – whose name means deceiver, just got deceived big time!
 - So Jacob now has two wives and the Bible describes the problems that follow and why it is never a good idea to have more than one wife

- **Let's read on – Genesis 29:31-35**

Jacob is now working another seven years to pay for his bride that he just married, the girl he wanted to marry in the first place

- He is favoring Rachel, he is loving Rachel and not loving Leah
 - And the Lord sees this and opens up Leah's womb and she starts having kids

Leah starts having kids and what she names them, this is so interesting – she names the first one Reuben

Reuben = “Behold a son”

- Hey behold I have a son, and she says now my husband will love me, I have given him a son
 - And yet she remained unloved
 - So she then has another son and names him Simeon

Simeon = “Heard”

- God has heard me, He knows I am unloved, so He has given me another son, so I will now be loved
 - And yet she remained unloved
 - So she then has a third son and names him Levi

Levi = “Joined to”

- God sees I am unloved so he gave me a third son, so now that I have given my husband three sons, my three sons, he has to love me now, he has to be joined to me
 - And yet she remained unloved

Now some of you are thinking - Wait a second – how does she keep having kids if Jacob doesn't love her – oh we will talk about this Wednesday night – It is a really important lesson especially for you ladies but nonetheless

- So Leah has a fourth son and names him Judah
 - and this is so interesting, listen up

Judah – “I will praise” (the Lord)

- After 4 boys and yet nothing changing in Jacob's heart toward her, Leah realizes, I am not going to find fulfillment in this guy
 - So instead, I will just praise the Lord and be content in the Lord

Well that is the context, the background for the one verse we started with today

- All the while that Leah is having baby boy after baby boy, Rachel, the younger, prettier and more loved sister, is getting jealous, she is becoming more and more discontented - So she finally comes to Jacob and says to him, “give me children or else I die”

And Jacob chapter 30 verse 2 is angry – Am I in the place of God?

- He is upset – this is the girl he loves, this is the one he is now working 14 years for
 - He has had 4 children with her older, uglier, sister, “it's not my fault, I am apparently able to have kids” – he has to be thinking - So why are you blaming me?
 - He is upset and she is not content to simply be the younger, better looking, and more loved sister – she wants a baby – that is her problem!
- Now it is so important from this text that we consider a few things concerning Rachel's problem

Rachel's problem... She was looking for fulfillment...

#1 – In the wrong person

She is looking at Jacob and thinking why can't you fulfill me by giving me a son

- And Jacob says – why are you looking toward me, I am not the Lord? – Wow!
 - What a true statement – I hope you hear this today

Your spouse, your husband, your wife, your church, your pastor, your friends, your job, your kids

- They might be wonderful people, but they are not God
 - Listen - They are flawed, but they are not God
 - They are flawed and they are not God
 - And they will never fulfill the deepest desires of your heart

John the Baptist when he is introduced for the first time in the gospels what he says is so important for us to consider

- They come to John the Baptist who has the tremendously successful ministry out in the desert
 - Some estimates are hundreds of thousands of people were walking days to come hear what John the Baptist had to say and to be baptized by him

Super successful ministry – and the priests and the Levites, the spiritual leaders from Jerusalem come to him and ask him, who are you?

- And his first recorded words are...

“I am not the Christ” – John 1:20

- I am not Him, I am not who you are looking for, I am not going to fulfill that need in your life - I am not the Christ
 - His first words were to reassure the people of who He was not - I am not the Christ

And this is so important for us to see, and for us to know

- We must know our husbands, our wives are flawed not God - We must know our church is flawed not God
 - We must know our kids are flawed not God

And we have to know this because there is some part of us that expects them to meet the deepest need of our hearts

We so often expect our spouse as we enter into marriage to fulfill the deepest needs of our lives

- And it is why for so many of us those first few years of marriage are so difficult because although we would have never said it before we got married, we expected to be fulfilled
 - We expected to have some part of the emptiness we felt as single men and women to be fulfilled in the covenant of marriage
 - And when it doesn't happen, problems arise, attitudes spring up – what is wrong with you?

Hey, Hey, ladies – He is not God, He is flawed

- I know – do you?
 - Or are you still expecting your husband, your boyfriend to meet the deepest emotional needs of your life?
 - Would you stop trying to expect from him something God never meant for him to fulfill in your life?

Fellas, gentlemen – She is not God, she is flawed

- Yeah I know, do you?
 - Or are you still expecting your wife, your girlfriend to meet some deep need in your life?
 - Would you give her a break and stop expecting her to fulfill something God never meant for her to fulfill in your life?

Some of you figured that out pretty quick in marriage

- Oh he is flawed, he is not God
 - Oh she is not God, she is flawed
 - But then you actually expected the little versions of yourself called your children to fulfill the deepest need of your heart like Rachel does in our text
- She knew Jacob was flawed and not God
 - But give me children, that is what I need

And yet maybe like Rachel that is what you expected – oh marriage didn't fulfill me, so I know what we need, we need babies, that will fulfil the deepest need of my heart

- And yet hopefully you have realized, your kids are little versions of you, meaning they like Mom and Dad are flawed not God
 - Do you know that or are you still expecting your kids to meet some need in your life, God never meant them to fulfill?

Some of us realize that about our wife or husband or kids, boyfriends, girlfriends – but we think, we actually think something else will fulfill us

- My job – if I just had the job I wanted, that hole in my heart would go away
 - And some of you still think that – just one more promotion, just one more move and finally I will be fulfilled
- Can I tell because I love you – no you won't! – because what you do for a living was never meant by God to fill the hole in your heart

Oh but maybe a church, oh Calvary Vista – Calvary Vista will fulfill me

- The teaching is good, maybe this is what is missing from my life?
 - But then you discovered that even servants of the Lord are flawed and not God

And yet maybe some of you still, oh you would never say it, but you are still hoping that this church or that I will fulfill something in you, God never meant me to fulfill

- Would you stop putting that pressure on your husband, your wife, your kids, your friends, your job, your church, your pastor, your pastor, your pastor... sorry
 - Because if you don't, you are expecting those people in your life to fulfil something God never meant them to fulfill

You keep saying that Jason, “that God never meant them to fulfill”

- How do you know?
 - How do you that God never meant my husband to fulfil me? How do you know my boyfriend will not fulfill me?
- How do you know God never meant my girlfriend or my wife to complete me – it sounded so good when Tom cruise said that – “you complete me” – how do you know?
 - Listen, Paul says this in Romans 8...

“For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;” – Romans 8:20

- The creation, all in God’s creation including you and me were subject to futility or vanity is literally the word

In every one of life’s experiences there will be an ounce of unfulfillment

- In every person you meet, in every relationship you have, in every job you get, in every church you attend and especially in every pastor you sit under there will be an ounce and maybe more than that, of unfulfillment

And we think what is wrong with that Pastor, what is wrong with that church, what is wrong with my job, what is wrong with my wife, with my husband, with my kids, my boyfriend, my girlfriend

- And the honest answer is they are flawed, not God
 - They have each been subject to futility

And Romans 8 is telling us God did that on purpose, so hopefully you would figure it out and stop looking for fulfillment in men and women that are flawed, and start to look for it in the one who actually is God!

- God subjected us all to futility so we would realize the only way I am going to deal with the barrenness in my soul is by looking to Him, to Jesus for fulfillment and wholeness

Leah, the older, uglier sister, she gets it, finally

- I was hoping my husband would fulfill me, I was hoping having kids would meet the need in my heart
 - But by the time she has Judah, she says, forget it, I will praise the Lord
 - I am looking for my fulfillment in God and God alone
- Leah gets it, but Rachel never does
 - Because she is not only looking for fulfillment in the wrong person, she is also...

Rachel's problem... She was looking for fulfillment...

#1 – In the wrong person

#2 – In the wrong thing

- Not only was Rachel looking for fulfillment in her husband she was also convinced that in the act of having kids, the deepest needs of her heart would be met
 - Give me children or else I die!
 - This being a parent is what I need to fulfill me
- And yet we see the foolishness of her expectations later on in the book of Genesis
 - What do I mean?

Well later in chapter 30, Rachel gets what she so desperately wants, in Genesis 30:22 we will see this Wednesday Night...

“Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb. And she conceived and bore a son, and said, “God has taken away my reproach.” So she called his name Joseph, and said, “The Lord shall add to me another son.” – Genesis 30:22-24

- God opens up Rachel womb and given her everything she thinks she wants and she passionately declares, God has taken away my reproach, I will now be fulfilled
 - And yet she names her firstborn son Joseph

“Joseph” = “Add or God will add.”

- And she clarifies what she means by naming him this when she says, God shall add to me another son

Church, Rachel finally has what she wants and names that baby, “I want another son” – think that through with me!

- The one thing she thought would fulfill her deepest desires - she realizes right away does not, so I need one more

And those of you that know your Bibles, know that God will indeed give her one more son

- The story is given to us in Genesis 35...

“Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor. Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, “Do not fear; you will have this son also.” And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin.” – Genesis 35:16-18

- As they were coming to what would be the city of Bethlehem, Rachel was again pregnant – God had once again given her the very thing she thought she needed to be fulfilled
 - And yet it was hard labor – and the midwife cried out – do not fear, you will have this son also – don’t worry Rachel, what you think you need to fulfill you, you are going to get that, it will happen

But as Rachel died, for she died while having this second child – she called his name “Ben-oni”

“Ben-oni” – “Son of my sorrow”

- The first time she had a baby, the very thing she expected to fulfill her, she named that baby, “I will have a another son” - And God answered that prayer
 - And as she is having her second baby, she names him “son of my sorrow”

And it really such a sad end to such a beautiful women

- A woman who had it all, from the world’s perspective

She was young, she is beautiful in form and appearance

- The scripture is telling she was pretty and had a great body, I am not trying to be crass that is just what the Hebrew phrase means – pretty with a great body

She had the love and favor of her husband above all other women

- And yet there was something broken in Rachel
 - Something she thought would be fulfilled in her husband
 - Something she then thought would be fulfilled in being a mother, in achieving motherhood

She cries out in chapter 30:1 – give me children, or I die

- And yet ironically, God gave her children, and they did not fulfill her, in fact giving birth to her second child killed her
 - She said, give me children or I die
 - But she got children and then she died

And I just felt the Lord wanted us to see that this morning and apply it to our lives personally

- What are you hoping will fulfill you?
 - What are you saying – Give me _____ fill in the blank or I die?

Can I tell you because I care about you – whatever that is, if it's not Jesus, you are looking to the wrong person and the wrong thing

- And if you don't figure this out sooner than later, you will destroy those relationships and things in your life

You will hurt your relationship with your husband, with your wife, with your kids, your friends, your boyfriend or girlfriends

- Because God never meant them to fulfill you
 - He meant for you to find satisfaction in Him!

And you will keep seeking and never find - if you are expecting to be fulfilled in some achievement or possession

- Maybe God will allow you to get what you want

And I'm telling you, you like Rachel will say – I want another

- And in the end – it will be simply sorrow to your heart because again stuff and people, never fulfill, they were never meant to, you are looking to the wrong person, and the wrong things
 - The only thing that will fulfill you
 - That only person that meet that barrenness of your heart is Jesus

That is why we so desperately need a change of heart today

- We need to let the Holy Spirit look within our hearts and ask the question, “what am I looking for fulfillment from?”
 - My spouse? My kids? My friends? My significant other? My sports? My job? Even my job
 - All of those are flawed, they are not God

But the good news is, you do have a God

- And He is not far, He is not the hard to find
 - David says in Psalm 46, that God is a very present help
 - He is here today, but you need to cry out to
- For you to be determined, I will find my fulfillment in you
 - I will find my purpose in you
 - I am done finding that in people or things

God you have always been here, waiting for me to see this truth, and I do – I will find fulfillment in you – amen? Amen!

- Gospel, people up front for prayer!