

"A Home and A Meal" | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | October 31, 2021

Genesis 29:16-25

Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were weak,^[a] but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." ¹⁹ Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave^[b] his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.) ²⁵ And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?"

Ephesians 3:7, 14-19

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.

¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family^[a] in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have

Intro Reflection

If you have time, watch the video about Alden's Tree from the church's app, website or newsletter. Read the scripture references again.

Background

This world does not offer a large hospitable home or a truly lasting meal, so people are wandering or starving, with needs only God and the Kingdom of Heaven can satisfy.

Discuss:

1. Where and with whom have you been planted?
2. As a mustard seed, our small acts and deeds can grow into something significant. What small intentional things are you doing where you're planted? List some things could you be doing there.
3. Tim asked, is it all entirely bad if the troubles and strife of this world make us long for the Kingdom of God? Discuss.
4. Tim said that God takes his time with us; "slow to anger and abounding in love." Are you able to be patient with yourself and others? Do you find it easy or challenging to take the long view? Why or why not?

Conclusion/Application

God took Jesus and planted him here that he might be raised and be hidden in our hearts, like leaven, to be both our sheltering tree and nourishing love. Dear God, show us *how* and embolden us *to* be for others what Christ is for us. Amen

strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Luke 13:18-21

¹⁸ He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? ¹⁹ It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

²⁰ And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? ²¹ It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."