

Transformation through Pain

In Genesis 29 and 30, Jacob is tricked by Laban and is forced to marry both of his daughters. Out of this less-than-ideal circumstance, a lot of drama and stress comes into his life. Because God allowed this to happen, we have to ask the question why? Why would God allow one of the fathers of his holy nation to go through suffering?

Three different verses give us some insight into why God may have allowed this.

- **Jeremiah 18.1-6, 2 Corinthians 3.17,18, Philippians 1.6, James 1.2-4**

In each of these passages, it shows that God is in the process of remaking or transforming us more and more into who he has created us to be – his children and representatives to this world. In **James 1.2-4**, it is clearly stated that trials or suffering can be a catalyst for this change, but in order for pain to lead us to maturity, we have to have the correct perspective on it.

- How do you see the hard things in your life that God is allowing to happen? Do you see them only as bad? Or do you also believe that God will work through them to bring about more good for you?
- Do you trust that God is good and will work all things for good in your life, including the brokenness of this world?