

Genesis Chapter 29: Law of Reciprocation, Truth Upheld and Beauty from Ashes

Remember to Lift Up Jesus

Genesis Chapter 28 Review:

- Jacob sent to relatives to find a **non-Canaanite wife**
- Jacob dreams; **God reaches down** and he **begins his spiritual journey**
- **Jacob** begins fulfilling Isaac's blessing to become a "**company of peoples**" and God's blessing for descendants like the "**dust of the earth**"
- **12 tribes of Israel**

Genesis Chapter 29 ...by **your standard** of measure, **it will be measured** to you.

[Matthew 7:1b]

1Then Jacob went on his journey, and came to the land of the **sons of the east**.

- **Came to the sons of the east: Laban:** Rebekah's brother; Abraham's brother Nahor's son Bethuel's son!...**Abraham's relative** Non-Canaanite; Idolater
- Evidently Laban's descendants would join the descendants of **Esau** [Amalekites] **and Ishmael** [Moab] in raiding parties against Israel. Jacob will be gone 20 years

2 He [Jacob] looked, and saw a **well** in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep were lying there beside it, for from that well they watered the flocks. Now the stone on the mouth of the well was **large**. 3When all the flocks were gathered there, they would then **roll the stone** from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well. [c.f. Exodus 2:25]

- **Wells:** Symbol of God's blessing and care; [c.f. Genesis 16:14, 21:19, 30, 26:32, Isaiah 12:3, and John 4:1-26]
- **Isaac and Rebekah may have met at the same well;** c.f. Genesis 24 **Large stone** over the mouth of the well

4Jacob said to them [sons of the east], "**My brothers**, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran." 5He said to them, "Do you know **Laban** the **son of Nahor**?" [Note: son here means grandson] And they said, "We know him." 6And he said to them, "Is it well with him?" And they said, "It is well, and **here is Rachel his daughter** coming with the sheep." 7 He [Jacob] said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered. Water the sheep, and go, pasture them." 8 But they said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered, and **they roll the stone** from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep." 9 **While he was still**

speaking with them, **Rachel** came with her father's sheep, for she was a **shepherdess**. 10 When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, **Jacob went up and rolled the stone** from the mouth of the well and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

- Small talk at the water cooler [Aramaic] Rachel "coincidentally" appears while they were still speaking: S[ee Abrahams servant and Rebekah Genesis 24:15-20]
- **Rachel:** Shepherdess comes as Jacob moves the stone himself!

11Then Jacob **kissed Rachel**, and lifted his voice and **wept**. 12 Jacob told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father. 13So when Laban heard the news of Jacob his sister's son, **he ran to meet him**, and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Then he related to Laban all these things. 14 Laban said to him, "Surely you are **my bone and my flesh**." And he stayed with him **a month**.

- **Kissed Rachel:** Common sign of affection; even men
- **Related all these things:** How the family was, Dream, how he schemed his brother
- Jacob stayed **one month so far**; Jacob's **mission was for a wife!**

15Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, **should you therefore serve me for nothing?** Tell me, what shall your wages be?" 16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was **Leah**, and the name of the younger was **Rachel**. 17And Leah's eyes **were weak, but** Rachel was **beautiful of form and face**. 18Now **Jacob loved Rachel**, so he said, "**I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel**."

- **Rachel:** "Ewe Lamb", **Leah:** "Cow"; Leah's eyes were weak ...**but** Rachel was beautiful...; **contrast** defines intention and meaning
- **Serve me for nothing:** Who said anything about work?
- **Laban knew** it was Rachel Jacob wanted " I will serve...for ...Rachel"
- 3 Patriarchs had beautiful wives:

Genesis 12:11 [Abram]... said to **Sarai** his wife, "See now, I know that **you are a beautiful woman**...**Genesis 24:16** [**Rebekah**] was **very beautiful**...

Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But **a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised**.

19Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than to give her to another

man; stay with me." 20 So **Jacob served seven years for Rachel** and they **seemed to him but a few days** because of his love for her.

- Laban learned his lesson from letting Isaac and Rebekah his sister leave I.e. **Get some work out of the potential husband first:**

Genesis 24:55 But...Laban and her mother said, "Let the girl stay with us a few days, say ten; afterward she may go." 56 He said to them, "**Do not delay me**, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master."

- **For Jacob it seemed only a few days:** Love at first sight as his Isaac for Rebekah

Song of Solomon 8:7 "Many waters cannot quench love, Nor will rivers overflow it; If a man were to **give all the riches of his house for love**, It would be utterly despised."

21Then Jacob said to Laban, "**Give me my wife**, for my time is completed, that I may go in to her." 22Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a feast. 23 Now in the evening **he took his daughter Leah**, and brought her to him; and Jacob went in to her. 24Laban also gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid. 25So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, "**What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?**"

- Not Specific: "**give me my wife**" not "**give me Rachel**"
- Jacob the "**Deceiver**" now deceived

Law of Reciprocation:

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for **whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.**

Matthew 7:1 "Do not **judge** so that you will not be **judged**. 2 "For in the **way you judge, you will be judged**; and by **your standard** of measure, **it will be measured** to you.

Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall **receive mercy**."

James 2:12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For **judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy...**

Examples of the Law of Reciprocation:

- Pharaoh tried to kill the firstborn... and lost his firstborn son
- Ahab's sin left dogs to lick Naboth's blood; he and his wife would have the same

- David's sin of adultery and murder; subsequently his daughter's rape and sons death
- Jacob deceived his father birthright and Uncle Laban now deceives him
- His name means deceiver...it will be changed after pain
- **Deceitfulness** permitted but **NOT condoned**:

Deceive: Heb. Ramah

1. to cast, shoot, hurl

1. to throw
2. bow-shooters, bowmen
3. to throw down

2. to beguile, deceive, mislead, deal treacherously

1. to beguile, deceive, mislead, trick
2. to deal treacherously with, betray

- **Not a "mistake"** but purposeful



DECEIT [Lying, falseness]

[Lying is Satanic]

John 8:44 " You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father He was a murderer from the beginning, and **does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him** Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for **he is a liar and the father of lies.**

[Jacobs's son's followed his example]

Genesis 34:13 But Jacob's **sons answered... with deceit...**

[God abhors lying]

Psalms 5:4 [David] **For You are** not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You. **5**The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity. **6**You destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD **abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit**

[God will judge lying; those who practice lying will not see heaven]

Revelation 21:8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Psalms 101:6 [of David] My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me. **7****He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house...**

Psalms 24:3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? **4** He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has **not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.** **5**He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

[We are not to associate with liars]

Psalms 26:4 [David] I **do not sit with deceitful men**, Nor will I go with **pretenders.** **5**I hate the assembly of

evildoers, And I will not sit with the wicked.

[Deceit is pre-meditated]

Psalm 50:19 "You let your mouth loose in evil And your **tongue frames deceit**.

[Deceit is foolishness]

Psalm 14:8 The wisdom of the sensible is to understand his way, But the **foolishness of fools is deceit**.

[Jesus had NO Deceit]

Isaiah 53:9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, **Nor was there any deceit in His mouth**.

[The anti-Christ will use deceit and fail]

Daniel 8:25 "And through his shrewdness **He will cause deceit to succeed by his influence**; And he will magnify himself in his heart, And he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, **But he will be broken** without human agency.

[Deceit is part of the fall and innate]

Mark 7: 21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as **deceit**, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. 23 "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

[Jesus commends truth... even raw truth]

John 1:47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is **no deceit!**"

[False religion is filled with deceit and deceivers]

Acts 13:9 But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, 10and said, "You who are full of all **deceit and fraud**, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such men are false apostles, **deceitful workers**, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

[As Christians we are to put away ALL deceit]

1 Peter 2:1 Therefore, **putting aside all malice and all deceit** and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children **walking** in the **truth**.

Truth: 5 Major Theories: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Truth>

1. **Correspondence Theory of Truth:** holds that the truth or the falsity of a representation is determined in principle solely by how it relates to "things", by whether it accurately describes those "things". [Thomas Aquinas](#): "Truth is the equation of thing and intellect", a statement which Aquinas attributed to the Ninth Century [Isaac Israeli](#). Aquinas also restated the theory as: "**A judgment is said to be true when it conforms to the external reality**"
2. **Coherence Theory of Truth:** truth is primarily a property of whole systems of propositions, and can be ascribed to individual propositions [**statement of opinion or judgment**] only according to their coherence [fitting together]with the whole.
3. **Constructivist Theory of Truth:** perceptions of truth are viewed as contingent on convention, **human perception, and social experience**. "**truth itself is constructed**" [Karl Marx held to this theory]
4. **Consensus Theory of Truth:** holds that truth is *whatever is agreed upon*, or in some versions, might come to be **agreed upon, by some specified group**.

5. **Pragmatic Theory of Truth:** truth is verified and confirmed by the results of putting **one's concepts into practice**. Truth is a quality the value of which is confirmed by its effectiveness when applying concepts to actual practice. John Dewey: inquiry, whether scientific, technical, sociological, philosophical or cultural, is self-corrective over time *if* openly submitted for testing by a community of inquirers in order to clarify, justify, refine and/or refute proposed truths.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy Tue Sep 3, 1996: (Even the correspondence theorist holds that propositions about propositions have propositions as their truth conditions.)????

"What is truth?" Pilate asked. [John 18:38]

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, **whatever is true**, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, **dwel on these things**.

TRUTH

[Father Son and Holy Spirit]

John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the **Father**, that is the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about **Me**...

1 John 5:6 This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

[Worship without truth is less than worthless; it is dangerous]

John 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

[The Gospel is True and life changing]

Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise...

Galatians 2:5 But we did not yield in subjection to them for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

[The Apostles Teaching is Truth]

1 John 4:6 We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

[Truth's connection to Love]

1 Corinthians 13:6 [Love] does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth...

[Truth will keep us out of trouble with the devil]

Ephesians 6:14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH,

[Truth will get us in trouble with man]

Galatians 4:16 So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?

[Truth is what God desires]

Psalms 51:6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom

Job: 27:4 My lips certainly will not speak unjustly, Nor will my tongue mutter deceit.

Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, and the *truth*, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.** [John 14:6]

Truth: Absence of falseness; and that candor of mind which is **free from affection, pretence, simulation, falsehood, deceit or...it is what it is**

- Allah is **not** YHWH because someone says so; Each have differing characteristics that cannot **be reconciled under the umbrella of truth**
- Adultery is still sin, though we may call it "an affair"; Fornication is still sin though we may call it "living together/ my fiancée", homosexuality is still sin though we may give out so-called "marriage" licenses, abortion is still murder though we may call it choice or a procedure, etc.
- Jesus is the Truth: "I am the Way and the Truth...
- Jesus is the Word: In the beginning was the Word...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us [John 1]
- Thus, God's Word is the Standard of Truth...**period**. Something is *true* because God says it is *True* [The *risen* Christ affirms, confirms, and validates; I.e. *Shows to be true with proof*, His Word]
- Laban can call this a "misunderstanding" but it is deceit

26But Laban said, "It is not the practice in our place to marry off the younger before the firstborn. 27"**Complete the week of this one**, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for **another seven years.**"

- Seven more years of service for Rachel
- 12 Tribes begin:

28Jacob did so and completed **her week**, and he gave him his daughter **Rachel** as his wife. 29 Laban also gave his maid **Bilhah** to his daughter Rachel as her maid. 30 So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and indeed he **loved Rachel more than Leah**, and he served with Laban for **another seven years**.31 Now the LORD saw that **Leah was unloved**, and He opened her womb, but **Rachel was barren**. 32 Leah conceived and bore a son and named him **Reuben**, for she said, "Because the LORD has seen my affliction; **surely now my husband will love me.**"

- **Unloved:** Favoritism; Isaac favored Esau; deceit leads to hurt (Leah)
- Firstborn and first head of 12 Tribes
- **Reuben:** Means "**see...a son**"; sounds like Hebrew for : "**He has seen my misery**"
- God **sees us when we are afflicted:**

Exodus 3:7 The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have **given heed to their cry** because of their taskmasters, for **I am aware** of their sufferings.

Exodus 4:31 So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had **seen their affliction**, then they bowed low and worshiped.

Deuteronomy 26:7 'Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD **heard our voice and saw our affliction** and our toil and our oppression...

Psalms 25:18 Look upon my **affliction and my trouble**, And forgive all my sins.

33Then she [Leah] **conceived again** and bore a son and said, "Because the **LORD has heard that I am unloved**, He has therefore given me this son also." So she named him **Simeon**.

- **Simeon:** "One who hears", Reminiscent of when **God said to another "least of these"** Hagar:

Genesis 16:11 ... "Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall call his name **Ishmael** [God hears], Because the LORD has **given heed to your affliction**.

Matthew 25:40 ...'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

34She [Leah] **conceived again** and bore a son and said, "Now this time my husband will **become attached** to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore he was named **Levi**.

- **Levi:** "Attached" [my husband will become attached]And he would later

35And she conceived again and bore a son and said, "This time I will **praise the LORD**." Therefore she named him **Judah**. Then she stopped bearing.

- **Judah:** "Praise"
- **Unloved Leah** would ultimately be most loved and remembered by Jacob

Genesis 59:29 (Read) Then [Jacob] charged them and said to them, "I am about to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, 30 in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field from Ephron the Hittite for a burial site. 31 "There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, **and there I buried Leah**-- 32the field and the cave that is in it, purchased from the sons of Heth." 33When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

- David and Jesus would be descendants of Leah and **Judah**

1 Samuel 17:12 ...David was the son of the Ephrathite of Bethlehem in **Judah**

Revelation 5:5 ...and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the **Lion that is from the tribe of Judah**, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals."

- Jesus paid for the "ugliness" of our sin that His beauty might be seen in us:

Psalms 30:4 Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And give thanks to His holy name. 5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning. 6 Now as for me, I said in my prosperity, "**I will never be moved.**"

Isaiah 61:1 (Read) The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and **provide for those who grieve** in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of **beauty instead of ashes**, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. [Isaiah 61]

SUMMARY:

- Jacob the deceiver is deceived...but very much in love
- Leah is not forgotten by God
- 12 Tribes begin

I tell you the Truth...until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

...among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

...if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

... [God] is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

...at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

...if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.

..."no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

...no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

...everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

...the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

...It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

...you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.