

Genesis 28:1-30:24 – 12 December 2019

“What Relationships Are Based On”

Introduction

Jacob, the deceiver

He stole Esau's birthright with soup in the field

He stole Esau's blessing by outright deception

Wants to have the godly blessing of Abraham...
without the godly part.

Jacob struggles with relationships

Chapter 27 he deceives his way into having the blessing from his father. He tries deceiving his way into a relationship with God

**Tonight, we'll see 2 ways Jacob uses relationships
and 2 ways others use relationships with Jacob**

1st Way Jacob uses relationships is with trickery and deceit.

1. We saw this in chapter 27 as Jacob stole the blessing from Esau and his father Isaac.
2. Jacob wanted this special relationship with God and tried taking it by trickery and deception.
3. *Jacob looks at relationships and thinks, “What can I take?” What can I get?*
4. Rebekah, his mom, is scared that Esau is going to kill Jacob and wants to send Jacob away.
5. Rebekah tells Isaac to allow Jacob to go get a wife from Padan-aram to protect him from Esau.

2nd Way Jacob uses relationships is with bargaining and negotiation (Chap 28)

Read 28:1-5

1. Isaac seems contrite to accept what the Lord is doing in choosing Jacob for the promised seed.

2. If Jacob is going to serve the Lord, give him the best chance by finding a wife from the family.
3. You remember Laban is the brother of Rebekah whom we saw earlier when Eliezer came to find a bride for Isaac in Rebekah.

Read 28:6-9

1. Esau seems to intentionally tick off his father, Isaac, after watching him bless Jacob.
2. This isn't the response of a godly man.
 - a. When the godly see others blessed instead of themselves, they wait patiently for the Lord.
 - b. Exp: Joseph
 - i. Went to work at Potiphar's house – didn't crawl into a shell.
 - ii. Had compassion on people in jail – didn't get anger with the world.
3. Remember, God hasn't cursed Esau. He simply chose Jacob for greater blessing.
 - a. Exp: Matt 20:1-16 (Turn to if there's time)

Read 28:10-11

1. Take a moment and position yourself in Jacob's life.
2. He is fearful, lonely, anticipating what's next, and accepting that his life has just completely changed.
 - a. Many people who were saved later in life, like me, can relate to this.
 - i. He's always wanted the things of God, just not the God part.
 - ii. Now he's ready to listen to the Lord
 - iii. HE HAS NOTHING TO LOSS
 - b. Remember, Jacob was a plain man and not a cunning hunter like Esau.
 - i. He's completely out of his element.
 - ii. He doesn't have a pot of red pottage to comfort himself, he has a stone pillow.

Read 28:12

1. There is a way to have a connection between heaven and earth.
2. *There is a way to have a relationship between heaven and earth.*
3. It's the ladder! What is the ladder?
 - a. Jesus Christ Himself.
 - i. Read John 1:51
 - ii. Man has no power to ascend to heaven, so God Himself descended to earth
 - iii. Read Heb 2:14-16

Read 28:13-15

1. The blessings of Abraham have been given to him by Isaac, but now God Himself declares it.
2. This is nothing else than Jacob entering into a true relationship with God.

Read 28:16-17

1. Jacob still has many misconceptions of God, but now there's a genuineness to his desire for God.
2. He still thinks God is territorial

Read 28:18-19

1. Bethel meaning the House of God
2. This will be seen as a real marker in Jacob's relationship with the Lord.

Read 28:20-22

1. *He's no longer tricking his way into relationships, now he's bargaining and negotiating a two-way deal.*
2. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
3. Many new believers and many non-believers have this false understanding of God.
 - a. Doesn't indicate salvation or not, just an immature understand of God.
 - b. Jacob must think he's really grown.

Now Jacob will have these same types of attitudes in relationship throw back his way by others.

1st We see a relationship based on trickery & deceit throw back at Jacob by Laban (Chap 29:1-30)

Read 29:1-8

1. Jacob was so pleased to find that he's at his destination.
2. Seems he was trying to get rid of the shepherd boys before Rachel got back.

Read 29:9-12

1. Jacob was more than forward to show kindness and a little muscle toward Rachel.
2. Having grown out of *deceptive relationships* and seeing them more as *bargaining relationships*, he now has his eye on a relationship w/ Rachel.

Read 29:13-20

1. And so, the arrangement to serve for and then marry Rachel is complete.
2. Remember, Laban is just as big a swindler as Jacob ever was.
 - a. Read Gen 24:29-30
 - b. Laban was looking for what he could get

Read 29:21-30

1. The very trickery and deception that Jacob once lived by is now biting him back.
2. We often think sin doesn't look that bad...until we see our very sin being welded by someone else against us.
3. People ask, "What should Jacob have done when deceived with Leah?"
 - a. Once the ideal godly situation is lost, make the best of what is left.
 - b. There's no ideal left, but live everyday the best you can to represent God from thereunto.

2nd We see relationships based on bargaining & negotiation throw back at Jacob by his wives (Chap 29:31-30:24)

Read 29:31

1. There is now a natural, fleshly contempt between these 4 ladies.
2. All fighting for Jacob's love and attention.
3. Jacob will now spend the next 15-20 years of his life dealing with the quarrelsome, bargaining negotiations of his wives.

Read 29:32-30:24

1. Envy, anger, affliction, hatred, wrestling, bargaining, reproach
 - a. These are all expressions used in the relationships of Jacob's wives.
2. Leah had 4 sons, then Bilhah had 2 sons
3. Zilpah has 2 sons then Leah has 2 more sons and a daughter
4. Rachel has a son (& 1 more much later)

Jacob must have remembered when he was bargaining and negotiating with God

1. Isn't there a better relationship than this?
2. All this fighting and striving to have and get.
3. Maybe God isn't happy with the bargaining, negotiating relationship that I've set up w/ Him?
4. But what kind of relationship does God want with me?
5. And then it dawns on him...
 - a. God wants the same kind of relationship with me that I wanted with Rachel...in the beginning!
 - b. Turn back to Gen 29:15-20
 - c. God just wants a relationship based in love!
 - d. John 3:16

Conclusion –

Today Jacob has grown thru relationships

1. We saw his deceitful trickery in Chapter 27 in stealing the blessing from Isaac,
 - a. Laban then throws this type of relationship back at him in chapter 29 as he tricks Jacob into marrying Leah.
2. We saw his bargaining, negotiating “you scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours” attitude with God in Chapter 28 in having a “tit for tat” relationship with God.
 - a. His wives then throw this type of relationship back at him in chapter 30 as they strive and struggle to get Jacob’s attention/

Having experienced a true loving relationship with Rachel...he now knows what God really wants with him!!