

Genesis 30:25-31:55 – 19 December 2019

“Graduating from Carnal Christian University”

Introduction

Jacob, the deceiver, built relationships by trickery

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.

When he met God at Bethel, he had a conversion and began building bargaining relationships.

This was thrown back at him by his wives and all the infighting during the 15-20 child-rearing years.

Jacob’s life with God has been as a Carnal Christian

Jacob is finally moving away from all that carnality.

Tonight, we get the ABCDs of Graduating from Carnal Christian University.

A in graduating from Carnal Christian U is for Abandoning bad relationships (Chap 30:25-43)

Read Chap 30:25-26

1. Jacob has had 20 years of contentious relationship with Laban and has been humbled by the school of hard knocks.
2. Jacob is ready to find a clean break

Read Chap 30:27-28

1. Laban is only interested in keeping Jacob b/c business has been good. Selfish!
2. Laban is willing even to give Jacob a raise.

Read Chap 30:29-30

1. Jacob is finally maturing to the stage of thinking of others including his family's well fair.
2. The converted believer like Jacob will eventual mature, but the ungodly like Esau continues in sin.

Read Chap 30:31-34

1. And so the agreement to separate the flock
2. All the spotted will be Jacob's
3. After 6 years, Jacob can take the spotted
4. In the process of abandoning bad relationships, there sometimes needs to be a bit of planning.
 - a. Can't just walk out the door day one.
 - b. Exp: Turn Ezra 10:12-14

Read Chap 30:35-43

1. Jacob used a method of poplar, hazel and chestnut tree chemicals to cause the flocks to breed
2. Did God do a miracle or did God give Jacob the wisdom to use a natural means?
 - a. Sometimes we never get the answer to these questions.
 - b. But it's God's will for Jacob to abandon this bad relationship with Laban.

B in graduating from Carnal Christian U is for Believing God for something new (Chap 31:1-16)

Read Chap 31:1-3

1. How many times in his 20 carnal, striving yrs did he think of God's promises given at Bethel?
2. Now he knows the call even more.
3. Thru all the carnality, he hears God's still small voice calling.

Read Chap 31:4-5

1. Jacob no longer thinks he can speak openly at home, so he calls them to the field.
2. He'll tell his wives that it's time to go home to Canaan & makes the case based on God's plan.
 - a. This is first time Jacob is seeking God.
 - b. 1st time he tells wives he's going God's way

Read Chap 31:6-13

1. Whole plan to separate from Laban was God's!
2. The God of Bethel has a new plan for him!

Read Chap 31:14-16

1. B/c God had called him to something new, he had to get the “buy in” from those closest to him.
2. Does your family know the great burdens and callings God has put in your life?
3. Have you shared your great desires w/ family?
4. Read John 15:15 – Not servants, but friends b/c I have made known unto you all things I’ve heard of My Father.

C in graduating from Carnal Christian U is for Contention comes anyway (Chap 31:17-42)

Read Chap 31:17-20

1. He chose the time Laban was far away sheering the sheep to get everything and flee.
2. Rachel steals Laban’s family idols.
 - a. This is major issue for Laban & sin to Rachel.
 - b. Baggage from our past, stays w/ for a while

Read Chap 31:21-29

1. Even though the contention and struggles from past sins doesn't go away quickly, Jacob is sustained and protected b/c he's serving the Lord.
2. Read John 19:10 – Pilate to Jesus – “don't you know I have the power to crucify you or...”
3. We should know that this world & it's ruler Satan has been given great power over us.
 - a. But can't exercise any unless God allows.
 - b. Praise God for His sustainment!

Read Chap 31:30-35

1. Rachel sins many times.
 - a. Stole from her father
 - b. Covered up her thief by lying.
2. This lifestyle of trickery and deception from Laban, her father, and Jacob, her husband, certainly has had a lasting effect on her.
3. Shows sometimes contention comes & you (Jacob) don't even know why?

Read Chap 31:36-42

1. Jacob unloads on Laban b/c he doesn't know what Rachel did.
2. Vs 38 – Jacob cared for everything.
3. Vs 39 – Jacob paid for all his office supplies
4. Vs 40 – Jacob had no sick days
5. Vs 41 – Jacob was defrauded on his pay check
6. Jacob believes Laban would have done more if the fear of God wasn't in him.

D in graduating from Carnal Christian U is for Dedication to Division (Chap 31:43-55)

Read Chap 31:43-55

1. They're dedicating to not cross paths again.
2. Jacob had already *abandoned* this lifestyle, but faced w/ *contention* again, he has to *double down*.
3. *Believing* in a new path, he now *dedicates* to it.
4. Read Rom 6:11-12

Conclusion –

Today we've seen the ABCDs of graduating from Carnal Christian University.

A. Abandon bad relationships and habits

- a. Don't wait until you experience 20 or 30 years of contention before you get a belly full.

B. Believe God for a new path forward

- a. You may lose the ability to speak freely around the Labans in your life, but you'll begin to be able to speak freely around those truly close to you.

C. Contention will come anyway, be ready

- a. A life of sin has great consequences. Some go away quickly; some consequences stick around a lot longer.

D. Dedicate to division away from sticky sins

- a. Like Heb 4:11 "let us labor to enter into the rest" that Christ offers us.