

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

Looking For Love in All the Wrong Places
Genesis 29

Slide 2:

God's attendance must include our alteration
God's companionship must include our conversion
God dwelling must include our development
So when God promises His presence (Genesis 28) we know this will include a spiritual process for Jacob

Slide 3:

Genesis 29:15-19 (ESV)

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance. Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me."

Slide 4:

Laban would know that Jacob had severely strained the relationship with his father Isaac.

Slide 5:

Leah had "weak" eyes. (tender, lovely)
"RAK"

- 1) Eye Deformity (Amblyopia, Strabismus, Cataracts, Blindness)
- 2) Lovely Eyes (but that's all she had)
- 3) Blue or Green Eyes

Slide 6:

Genesis 29:20 (ESV)

So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Slide 7:

Genesis 29:21

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife so that I may go in to her, for my time is completed."

Slide 8:

The marriage covenant includes both a legal obligation (process) and an experiential event.

The same is true of our relationship with God!

Slide 9:

Genesis 29:25 (ESV)

And in the morning, behold, it was Leah!

Slide 10:

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?"

Slide 11:

Galatians 6:7 (ESV)

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Slide 12:

Jacob does NOT reflect and repent!

Slide 13:

Genesis 29:30-31 (ESV)

So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

When the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

Slide 14:

"I've never heard a sermon about Leah, but the reason for that is obvious: A man could never understand the pathos of Leah's story.

Only a woman winces at the thought of a phony marriage, or when a husband is attracted to your sister or any other woman more than you, or the hopelessness of a cold and dead marriage."

Slide 15:

Isaiah 54:5 (ESV)

For your Maker is your husband,
the LORD of hosts is his name.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read Genesis 29. What feeling is the narrator trying to paint about all the characters. What kind of person does Jacob seem like, and why? How about Laban? What about his daughters, Leah and Rachel? Before trying to figure out what the application may be, what is the author trying to show us as a story? (Where are the places that may be funny, or horrifying, or heart-breaking?)

2) Jacob and Laban make a legal arrangement for marriage, but there is also an experiential element that must also take place to be fully in covenant. How is this the same as our relationship with Christ, and the covenant we enter into when we are saved. Can you explain both elements (legal and experiential) in your own life?

3) Jacob has met his match in deception. God will use Laban's deception to refine Jacob. How can we see that Jacob failed to learn this lesson and therefore, delay his own refinement that God was providing for him? What could/should he have done after the deception from Laban/Leah?

4) Polygamy has not yet been codified by God. Does this get Jacob off the hook? Why or why not? Is this how his grandfather Abraham acted? What about Isaac? What was the difference between why Abraham slept with Hagar, and Jacob with 4 women!?

5) Leah is a tragic figure in scripture. She is being used by all the men in her life for various reasons. How does God defend her? And how would God have us view her story?

6) Prayer and praise