

GENESIS

Sermon Questions & Verses

Genesis 31:1-21

1. In verse one the problem is not that Jacob stole anything. It was that Laban's sons were filled with envy. The root of envy is a dissatisfied heart. Where do you find yourself dissatisfied in what God has provided? Where is envy causing conflict in your professional and personal relationships?
Galatians 5:19-21; Proverbs 14:30; James 3:14-16; 1 Corinthians 3:3, 13:4; Matthew 27:18
2. In verses one and two we see that God allows for Jacob's circumstances to become unbearable as a part of preparing him to move. It illustrates how God will use difficult circumstances in our lives for His purpose. Jacob illustrates for us that in the midst of difficult circumstances to always wait on the Lord. Where is God calling you to wait on Him? Are you waiting on the Lord? Do you trust Him, Seek Him, put your hope in Him
James 1:2-4; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; Romans 5:3; Psalm 62:5-8, Psalm 27
3. In verse nine Jacob's words to Rachel and Leah remind us that all we have belongs to God for his glory. Essentially saying that the Lord is the One who gives, and the Lord is the one who takes away. Do you recognize this? Are you at peace with God owning everything that belongs to you? (family, possessions, health, your own self) Where do you cling too tightly? What do you need to hold loosely? Can you praise when he gives? Can you praise when He takes?
Job 1:21; Psalm 24:1, 127:3; 1 Chronicles 29:14; 2 Corinthians 9:10-11
4. In this text Jacob's trust of God and then later his fear of Laban illustrates for us the sanctification process that happens in each of our lives. Moving forward in our faith and sometimes moving backward. How often does fear draw you away from obedience to God? How often does fear cause you to doubt God? How often does fear cause you to do your own thing or seek your own wisdom? Where is fear stifling your obedience?
Isaiah 41:10; John 14:27; Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 27, 118:6; Deuteronomy 31:6

Jacob Flees from Laban

31 But Jacob soon learned that Laban's sons were grumbling about him. "Jacob has robbed our father of everything!" they said. "He has gained all his wealth at our father's expense."

2 And Jacob began to notice a change in Laban's attitude toward him.

3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your father and grandfather and to your relatives there, and I will be with you."

4 So Jacob called Rachel and Leah out to the field where he was watching his flock. **5** He said to them, "I have noticed that your father's attitude toward me has changed. But the God of my father has been with me. **6** You know how hard I have worked for your father, **7** but he has cheated me, changing my wages ten times. But God has not allowed him to do me any harm. **8** For if he said, 'The speckled animals will be your wages,' the whole flock began to produce speckled young. And when he changed his mind and said, 'The striped animals will be your wages,' then the whole flock produced striped young. **9** In this way, God has taken your father's animals and given them to me.

10 "One time during the mating season, I had a dream and saw that the male goats mating with the females were streaked, speckled, and spotted. **11** Then in my dream, the angel of God said to me, 'Jacob!' And I replied, 'Yes, here I am.'

12 "The angel said, 'Look up, and you will see that only the streaked, speckled, and spotted males are mating with the females of your flock. For I have seen how Laban has treated you. **13** I am the God who appeared to you at Bethel,[a] the place where you anointed the pillar of stone and made your vow to me. Now get ready and leave this country and return to the land of your birth.'"

14 Rachel and Leah responded, "That's fine with us! We won't inherit any of our father's wealth anyway. **15** He has reduced our rights to those of foreign women. And after he sold us, he wasted the money you paid him for us. **16** All the wealth God has given you from our father legally belongs to us and our children. So go ahead and do whatever God has told you." **17** So Jacob put his wives and children on camels, **18** and he drove all his livestock in front of him. He packed all the belongings he had acquired in Paddan-aram and set out for the land of Canaan, where his father, Isaac, lived. **19** At the time they left, Laban was some distance away, shearing his sheep. Rachel stole her father's household idols and took them with her. **20** Jacob outwitted Laban the Aramean, for they set out secretly and never told Laban they were leaving. **21** So Jacob took all his possessions with him and crossed the Euphrates River,[b] heading for the hill country of Gilead.