

God in your Relationships:

Leah

Lizette du Piesanie 26/05/2019

1. LEAH

- 1.1.** Leah's story starts as one of rejection and shame, and ends with acceptance and honour.
- 1.2.** Jacob fled to Laban, his mother's brother, after he tricked his older twin brother out of his inheritance.

Genesis 29:16-18 (AMP) "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, so he said; "I will serve you [as a hired workman] for seven years [in return] for [the privilege of marrying] Rachel your younger daughter."

- 1.3.** He saw Rachel and said to her dad that he will work for seven years in order to marry her. The seven years flew by as he watched her every day and fell more and more in love.

Genesis 29:20 (AMP) "So Jacob served [Laban] for seven years for [the right to marry] Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her."

Genesis 29:21 (AMP) "Finally, Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my time [of service] is completed, so that I may take her to me [as my wife]." So Laban gathered together all the men of the place and prepared a [wedding] feast [with wine]."

- 1.4.** Laban had a plan, to deceive Jacob. He needed to marry off Leah, but she was not desirable.
- 1.5.** Laban tricked Jacob into marrying her by sending Leah to his wedding bed instead of Rachel. The next morning he woke up in disgust when he saw Leah.
- 1.6.** She was a thorn in his flesh. He reaped the deception he sowed at home (When he tricked his brother out of his inheritance).
- 1.7.** Jacob confronted Laban and a deal was made. He had to wait one week and then he could marry Rachel.
- 1.8.** This must have been very hard on Leah. She saw Jacob marry his true love, and life went on. No one noticed her pain, because no one ever noticed Leah.
- 1.9.** But God noticed her.

Genesis 29:31(AMP) "Now when the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, He made her able to bear children, but Rachel was barren."

Genesis 29:32-34 (AMP) "Leah conceived and gave birth to a son and named him Reuben (See, a son!), for she said, "Because the Lord has seen my humiliation and

suffering; now my husband will love me [since I have given him a son].” Then she conceived again and gave birth to a son and said, “Because the Lord heard that I am unloved, He has given me this son also.” So she named him Simeon (God hears). She conceived again and gave birth to a son and said; “Now this time my husband will become attached to me [as a companion], for I have given him three sons.” Therefore he was named Levi. Again she conceived and gave birth to a [fourth] son, and she said; “Now I will praise the Lord.” So she named him Judah; then [for a time] she stopped bearing [children].”

- 1.10. The first three sons were born and Leah thought, “Now my husband will love me, he will see me, he will value me”. Her eyes opened after her fourth son, and said, “Now I will turn to God”. Her fourth son was named Judah (means praise) and was the line out of which Jesus was born.
- 1.11. Leah let go of the expectation she had on Jacob. She released him from something he could never give her, and she found it with God.
- 1.12. The story goes on and the interesting twist is that Leah was married in shame, but buried in honour. She was the one in the “family tomb” not Rachel.

Genesis 49:31 (AMP) “There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah”

- 1.13. When we praise God, He will take care of the rest.

Sermon Discussion Guide

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

- 1. Have you ever felt like Leah? Undesirable and a thorn in people’s flesh?
- 2. Does it sometimes feel like no one sees or understands you or your problems? Do you think that God sees you?
- 3. Do you sometimes get so caught up in seeking acceptance from people that you forget to praise God for everything He has already given you?