

## Important Women of the Bible

### Leah: The Devalued

Various Texts

#### The Bible Teaches & We Celebrate:

- Men AND Women are BOTH made in the Image of God

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” **Genesis 1:27**

- Men AND Women are BOTH infinitely loved by God

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16**

- Men AND Women are BOTH equal in Christ Jesus

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” **Galatians 3:28**

- Men AND Women are BOTH vital to God’s Kingdom in Unique Ways

“Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children.” **Titus 2:2-4**

**Main Idea:** God Loves to Treasure that which the World Overlooks

#### I. Devaluation Comes from Many Directions

“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.” **Genesis 29:16-17**

**Leah’s Father:** “But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her.” **Genesis 29:23**

**Leah’s Husband:** “So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah...” **Genesis 29:30a**

**Leah’s Sister:** “When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister...” **Genesis 30:1a**

**Herself:** “And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, ‘Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me.’ She conceived again and bore a son, and said, ‘Because the LORD has heard that I am hated, he has given me this son also.’ And she called his name Simeon. Again she conceived and bore a son, and said, ‘Now this time my husband will be attached to me, because I have borne him three sons.’ Therefore his name was called Levi...And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son. Leah said, ‘God has given me my wages because I gave my servant to my

husband.’ So she called his name Issachar. And Leah conceived again, and she bore Jacob a sixth son. Then Leah said, ‘God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will honor me, because I have born him six sons.’ So she called his name Zebulun.” **Genesis 29:32-34, 30:17-20**

#### II. True Value Comes from One Place

“Many think the Bible should be a book of virtues. You think the Bible should be a series of inspirational stories with role models. You think the Bible should be a series of stories of heroes. And that proves that you don’t understand the Gospel. The Bible is not about role models. It’s not about emulating these great people...it’s about God working with weak people!” **Timothy Keller**

Elohim = the great one

Yahweh = the covenant name of God, given to those he will save by his grace

“And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, ‘This time I will praise the LORD.’ Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she ceased bearing.”

**Genesis 29:35**

**Main Idea:** God Loves to Treasure that which the World Overlooks

- God Blessed Leah with the Motherhood of Seven Kids
- God Blessed Leah by Levi’s Tribe
- God Blessed Leah through One Descendant of Judah

“And one of the elders said to me, ‘Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.’” **Revelation 5:5**

“You’ll never guess what job God gave Leah. You see, when God looked at Leah, he saw a princess. And sure enough that’s exactly what she became. One of Leah’s children’s children’s children would be a prince: the Prince of Heaven, God’s Son. This prince would love God’s people. They wouldn’t need to be beautiful for him to love them, he would love them with all of his heart, and they would be beautiful because he loved them. Like Leah.”

**Sally Lloyd-Jones**

#### Sources and Reading Opportunities

- *The Girl Nobody Wanted* – Timothy Keller (1998)
- *Who Was Leah in the Bible* – GotQuestions.org
- *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* – Barry, Bomar, Brown, etc (2016)
- *Complete Word Study Dictionary* – Spiros Zodhiates (2000)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Laney & Hughes (2001)
- *Wiersbe Expository Outlines* – Warren Wiersbe (1992)
- *The Jesus Storybook Bible* – Sally Lloyd-Jones (2007)

