



Sermon Highlights

God's Fairness in an Unfair World: Learning Through Suffering

Sermon Summary:

This sermon examines the story of Jacob and Laban from Genesis 31 to address the question "Is God fair?" in what appears to be an unfair world. Pastor Bruce Gordon clarifies that while the world is indeed unfair due to sin, God intervenes on behalf of His children to level the playing field. Through Jacob's 20-year struggle with his deceptive father-in-law Laban, we see how God protects His people and uses suffering as a tool for spiritual growth and sanctification. The message emphasizes that God transforms selfish individuals into people of faith through progressive sanctification, using life's difficulties to draw believers closer to Him. Rather than asking "Why me?" in times of suffering, Christians should recognize these moments as opportunities to learn dependence on God and experience His presence more intimately. The sermon concludes with the reminder that God is not distant but present with His children, and that temporary earthly unfairness will ultimately be resolved by God's perfect justice.

Key Points:

- The world is unfair because of sin, but God is always fair and just
- God actively intervenes to protect and provide for His children in unjust circumstances
- God uses suffering and difficulties as tools for spiritual growth and sanctification
- Jacob's story illustrates how God transforms selfish people into faithful servants through life's trials
- Believers should not waste their sufferings but use them to draw closer to God
- The valleys of life, not the mountaintops, are where we learn to trust God most
- God establishes a covenant barrier between His children and the unfair world through Christ's sacrifice at Calvary
- When we endure difficulties faithfully, we discover that God's presence is with us now, not just in eternity
- Judgment will be fair: believers are judged in Christ, unbelievers by their own works

Scripture Reference:

- Genesis 31:43-55 (primary passage)
- The broader context includes Jacob's 20-year journey with Laban and his encounter at Bethel

Stories:

- Jacob's 20-year servitude to Laban, including 14 years to earn his wives Rachel and Leah, and 6 years to build his flocks
- Jacob's flight from Esau and his encounter with God at Bethel
- Laban's pursuit of Jacob with armed men after Jacob fled with his family
- God's intervention through a dream warning Laban not to harm Jacob
- Laban's search for his stolen household gods, which Rachel had hidden
- Jacob's righteous confrontation with Laban after the unsuccessful search
- The covenant-making ceremony with stones at Gilead/Mizpah as a witness between Jacob and Laban
- The preview of Jacob's next encounter with angels of God in Genesis 32:1-2
- Pastor Bruce Gordon's personal reference to his wife Vicki being raised by her grandmother rather than having a mother-in-law