

Genesis 30

10/11/2020

Sunday Morning

Review:

1. Jacob has 2 wives – by his choosing, & by the deceit of his father-in-law
  - a. Jacob is reaping what he has sown
  - b. This will create serious problems b/c God didn't plan for a man to have more than one wife

Genesis 29:30 So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and indeed he loved Rachel more than Leah, and he served with Laban for another seven years.

V.31 Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

1. "the LORD saw that Leah was unloved & He opened her womb"
  - a. God gives to His own special blessings in dark hours
  - b. She has a son – Reuben
    - i. Her husband didn't love her but she had a son who loved her & depended on her
    - ii. She had hoped that a son would turn Jacob's heart to her

**V.33** Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also." So she named him Simeon.

1. "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved...she named him Simeon"
  - a. Leah did the right thing – she went to God w/ her sorrow
    - i. He blessed her w/ another son
  - b. She never gave up on the idea of Jacob might love her **V.34**

V.34 She conceived again and bore a son and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons."

Therefore he was named Levi.

1. "Now...my husband will become attached to me...I have borne him three sons...was named Levi"
  - a. There are some circumstances that God doesn't alter
  - b. Sometimes God gives victory over your circumstances – & sometimes in your circumstances

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond

what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

- i. This is an "in" your circumstances
- c. Leah's circumstances didn't change – but God blessed her & brought joy in spite of circumstances

V.35 And she conceived again and bore a son and said, "*This time I will praise the LORD.*" *Therefore she named him Judah.* Then she stopped bearing.

- 1. "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she named him Judah"
  - a. Judah – "praise"
    - i. She began looking to the true source of contentment – she looked to God
  - b. At that moment – Leah was the most spiritual person in the household

30:1 Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she became jealous of her sister; and *she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die."*

- 1. "she said to Jacob, 'Give me children, or else I die'"
  - a. Rachel was really hurting – "Give me children, or else I die!"
  - b. Whether legitimate or not we must be careful about letting our "wants" consume us
    - i. We have to keep in mind that God is sovereign – He knows best
  - c. Many people have felt the need for something so great – that life didn't hold much value w/out that thing
    - i. People have risk life & limb; broken civil & moral laws to get what they wanted
    - ii. Families are deep in debt, b/c they deemed something more valuable than financial stability
    - iii. Homes are torn apart b/c someone wanted someone who wasn't rightfully theirs, & destroyed their own family to get that person
    - iv. History is replete w/ examples of damaged children, b/c a father wanted power, fame or fortune more than he wanted to be a father
    - v. Young people make decisions, that will haunt them the rest of their lives, b/c they want acceptance more than they want morality

- d. Maybe we should stop & look at Rachel & see if we can learn anything from her heartache

V.2 Then Jacob's anger burned against Rachel, and he said, "*Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you* the fruit of the womb?"

1. "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you"
  - a. Jacob was not God & he couldn't do anything about her not having children
    - i. Rachel demanded of Jacob what he didn't have the power to give
  - b. Was it legitimate to want a child?
    - i. To a Jewish woman – it was an affront to not have children
    - ii. But Rachel had gone beyond the boundaries of reason
  - c. What caused her to think this way?

- d. #1. She was envious of her sister

- i. She focused on what her sister had – instead of looking to God

V.3 And she said, " Here is my maid Bilhah, go in to her, that she may bear on my knees, that through her I too may have children."

V.4 So she gave him her maid Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her.

V.5 And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

V.6 Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me, and has indeed heard my voice and has given me a son." Therefore she named him Dan.

V.7 And Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

V.8 So Rachel said, "*With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister,* and I have indeed prevailed." And she named him Naphtali.

1. "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister"
  - a. Rachel turned having children into a contest; between w/ her sister & herself
  - b. Envy will eat a person from the inside

**Proverbs 14:30** (NIV) A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

- i. What God chooses to do w/ someone else is between God & that person
  - ii. He has a plan for you that only you can fulfill

**John 21:18** "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself, and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you

will stretch out your hands, and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to *go*."

<sup>19</sup> Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He •said to him, " Follow Me!"

<sup>20</sup> Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following *them*; the one who also had leaned back on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

<sup>21</sup> Peter therefore seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!"

- c. #2. She was ungrateful for what she did have
  - i. She was the prettier sister
  - ii. She had Jacob's love – not Leah
  - iii. Jacob was gracious to her, adored her, worked 14 years for her  
**Gen.29:30** So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and indeed he loved Rachel more than Leah, and he served with Laban for another seven years.

- d. #3. She was self-determined
  - i. God's will wasn't important
  - ii. She decided to do whatever it took to get what she wanted

V.3 x And she said, " Here is my maid Bilhah, go in to her, that she may bear on my knees, that through her I too may have children."

V.4 x So she gave him her maid Bilhah as a wife, and Jacob went in to her.

V.5 x And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

- 1. "that through her I too may have children"
  - a. She was selfish

**Philippians 2:3** Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself;

<sup>4</sup> do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

e. #4. She wasn't honest w/ herself

i. The hardest person to be honest with – is yourself

V.5 x And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

V.6 x Then Rachel said, "God has vindicated me, and has indeed heard my voice and has given me a son." Therefore she named him Dan.

V.7 x And Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

V.8 x So Rachel said, "With mighty wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and I have indeed prevailed." And she named him Naphtali.

1. "I have indeed prevailed"

a. Leah has 4 natural children – Rachel has one adopted child & she says to herself, "I won!"

i. The element of pride says – I deserve better than...

ii. Self-deception is damaging

iii. Self-deception will keep a person from growing up spiritually

iv. Rachel was never spiritually mature

V.9 When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife.

1. "she took her maid Zilpah and gave her to Jacob as a wife"

a. Herd instinct pulled Leah down

V.10 And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

V.11 Then Leah said, "How fortunate!" So she named him Gad.

V.12 And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

V.13 Then Leah said, "Happy am I! For women will call me happy." So she named him Asher.

1. "How fortunate!" So she named him Gad"

a. She has taken her eyes off God

b. Leah's attitude has changed into a competition mode also

V.14 Now in the days of wheat harvest Reuben went and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes

V.15 But she said to her, "Is it a small matter for you to take my husband? And would you take my son's mandrakes also?" So Rachel said, "Therefore he may lie with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes."

V.16 When Jacob came in from the field in the evening, then Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." So he lay with her that night.

1. "Jacob came in from the field...Leah went out to meet him...I have hired...you"
  - a. This is not a picture of a happy family
  - b. We see a little snapshot of a man w/ 4 wives – Solomon said **Proverbs 21:9** It is better to live in a corner of a roof, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.
  - c. Jacob is not enjoying life very much
  - d. He is a man who came from a divided house; one that showed favoritism
    - i. He created another household – just like the one he was raised in

V.17 And God gave heed to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

V.18 Then Leah said, "God has given me my wages, because I gave my maid to my husband." So she named him Issachar.

V.19 And Leah conceived again and bore a sixth son to Jacob.

V.20 Then Leah said, "God has endowed me with a good gift; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons." So she named him Zebulun.

V.21 And afterward she bore a daughter and named her Dinah.

V.22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb.

V.23 So she conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

V.24 And she named him Joseph, saying, " May the LORD give me another son."

1. "God has taken away my reproach"
  - a. She had said earlier that she "won"
    - i. She felt reproach until now
    - ii. But even so, one son was not enough
2. "she named him Joseph, saying, " May the LORD give me another son"
  - a. Joseph – "add/increase"
  - b. Instead of basking in the moment – she is already looking for another son
  - c. You can spend your life living somewhere other than in the present

- i. It is a waste of valuable time
- ii. She will have another son - & die having him
- iii. She lived her entire adult life looking for something more
- d. A person can squander their entire life looking at something in the future & never live in the present
- e. Christ warned us of doing this

**Matthew 6:25** " For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, *as to* what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, *as to* what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?

<sup>26</sup> " Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and *yet* your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

<sup>27</sup> "And which of you by being anxious can add a *single* cubit to his life's span?

<sup>28</sup> "And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin,

<sup>29</sup> yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these.

<sup>30</sup> "But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, *will He* not much more *do so for* you, O men of little faith?

<sup>31</sup> "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?'

<sup>32</sup> "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

<sup>33</sup> "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.

<sup>34</sup> "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. *Each* day has enough trouble of its own.

- f. Rachel never learned that lesson

V.25 Now it came about when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, " Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my own country.

V.26 "Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me depart; for you yourself know my service which I have rendered you."

1. "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my own country"

- a. Remember – Jacob isn't living in the promised land

- b. There is a lot of work to be done in him, before he can live where he is supposed to live
- c. God is showing grace to Jacob – but all is not well
- d. Jacob still depends on Jacob to take care of Jacob
  - i. He thinks he knows quite a bit about life – but he will find out that he knows very little
- e. He doesn't know how to rest in the land of promise land
- f. God is working in Jacob's life – in spite of Jacob