

“When We Get Ahead of God”

Genesis 29 — Pastor Larry Hof

Key Theme

Genesis 29 shows the consequences of stepping outside God's plan and the pain that follows when we ignore His design for marriage. But even in the mess, God's grace meets the broken and rewrites the story.

Main Points

1. When We Rush Ahead of God, We Reap Confusion

Genesis 29:1–14

- Jacob moves on emotion instead of prayer.
 - Rushing leads to poor discernment.
 - God's timing is perfect — ours isn't.
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2. Ignoring God's Design for Marriage Invites Heartache

Genesis 29:15–30

- Laban deceives Jacob; Jacob accepts two wives.
 - Polygamy brings rivalry, jealousy, and division every time it appears in Scripture.
 - God designed **one man, one woman, one covenant**.
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3. Man's Schemes Breed Strife, but God's Grace Finds the Broken

Genesis 29:31–35

- Leah is unloved — yet God sees her.
- Rachel is loved — yet the home is divided.

- Leah's son **Judah** becomes the ancestor of Jesus.
 - God can redeem any situation surrendered to Him.
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The Big Takeaway

God's way is always safer and better than our way.

Disobedience brings complications.

God's boundaries protect us, God's timing blesses us, and God's grace heals us.

Reflection Questions

1. Where am I rushing ahead of God?
 2. Have I ignored God's design in any relationship?
 3. What area of my life do I need to surrender back to God's plan?
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Memory Verse

"This time I will praise the Lord."

— **Genesis 29:35**

Closing Encouragement

No matter the mistakes, God sees, God hears, and God restores. His plan is not just right — it's good, protective, and full of blessing.