

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) Mar 02.....Gen 28..... Responding with Faith
- 2) Mar 09..... Gen 29-31..... **God's Faithfulness**
- 3) Mar 16..... Gen 32-33..... Growing Spiritually through Crisis
- 4) Mar 23..... John 20; 1Cor 15..... Easter

INTRODUCTION

- Issues with maintaining strong family relationships, maintaining truth and integrity, staying true to God, and knowing when to hang tough or to leave tough situations

Passage	Comments
29:1-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob hooks up with his uncle Laban • After 1 month (v14) a deal is struck to serve 7 years for Rachel (v20) • Leah had weak/tender/soft eyes <07390> Pr 15:1 A soft <07390> answer turns away wrath • But Jacob favored Rachel's striking beauty (v17) like her great aunt Sarah • It was pretty vs gorgeous • Time flies when you are in love (v20)
29:21-25	3 BIG Reasons to avoid getting drunk 1. You embarrass yourself Noah 2. Your kin folk take advantage of you..... Lot 3. You wake up next to GodzillaJacob
29:26-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob had to serve 7 more years for Rachel • God invoked 2 laws to prevent future marital woes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unlawful to marry sisters..... Le 18:18 2. Must treat wives fairly Deut 21:15
29:30-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favoritism continues to wreck havoc in the home • The Lord got involved and blessed Leah.....v31 • Principle of reversed blessings Prov 24:17-18
Leah	Zilpah (maid)
1. Reuben ⁽²⁾	7. Gad ⁽³⁾
2. Simeon ⁽⁷⁾	8. Asher ⁽⁴⁾
3. Levi ⁽⁸⁾	
4. Judah ⁽⁴⁾	
9. Issachar ⁽⁹⁾	
10. Zebulun ⁽¹⁰⁾	
(d) Dinah	
Rachel	Bilhah (maid)
11. Joseph ⁽¹¹⁾	5. Dan
12. Benjamin ⁽¹²⁾	6. Naphtali ⁽⁵⁾
Sons of Joseph:	Note:
Manasseh ⁽⁶⁾	(#) = order
Ephraim	listed in
	Rev 7:5-8
30:1-8	• Desperation leads to children by the handmaids
30:9-13	• If it worked for Rachel, let's try Leah's handmaid
30:14-16	Principle of monogamous sex – cf Esther – the King called one virgin at a time from his harem. Even a heathen king was not noted for group sex
Leah bought the right to go to bed w/ Jacob from her sister, Rachel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group sex was a mark of wickedness along w/ adultery, homosexuality, bestiality Lev 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Exemplified in Noah's Day; in Sodom & Gomorrah; and in the Land of Canaan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ God purged the land when sins are completed Gen 6:5-12; 15:16; 19:13; Lev 18:20-30 ♦ Rom 13:13; Gal 5:21; 1Pet 4:3 – Orgies (NIV), rioting/revellings (KJ), carousing (NASB) ♦ Shame to even talk about such things.... Eph 5:12 ♦ God still patiently waits for sinners to repent – “Such were some of you...” 1Cor 6:9-11
30:20-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leah was convinced she could become the favored wife by having 6 sonsv20 • A daughter is born – Dinah (~Judgment) • God remembered Rachelv22

Passage	Comments
30:25-41	Jacob departs from Laban <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laban realizes he's been blessed because of Jacob <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Principle of Extended Blessings – God blesses others through the presence of His children ♦ “I will bless those who bless you” ♦ Unbelieving spouse is “sanctified” and children are marked as “holy” through the believing spouse – legitimacy to children & marriage
31:1-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deception reigns - ‘And your father has deceived me, and changed my wages ten times;...’ v7 • What you sow you shall reap • God of Bethel tells Jacob to move on v13
31:19-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rachel steals the family idols..... v19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This will come back to haunt the family • Jacob sneaks away from conflict..... v20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ No indication Jacob thought through the what-if scenarios. Could situation go from bad to worse? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would Laban let him go without pursuing? ▪ Would Laban pursue and destroy him? ♦ He apparently took the path of least resistance ♦ Should Jacob have tried harder to smooth out his difficult relationship with his father-in-law? ♦ When is it appropriate to avoid conflict? ♦ When is it appropriate to break fellowship?
31:22-42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laban catches up with Jacob, but is warned by God in a dream not to harm him • Laban tries to find his stolen family idols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Laban was a God-fearing man since he heeded the dream given to him, but he still had idols - possibly idols of God, which still was not appropriate ♦ God does not want His people to be able to put Him in a box since even the earth is not even fit to be His footstool • Rachel continues to lie and covers up the fact she stole away her dad's idols (she wanted to hold onto something familiar with her past)
31:43-55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A covenant is made between Jacob & Laban • Laban challenges Jacob not to afflict his wives – even to take additional wives to afflict them..... v50

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION FOR TODAY

- Godly discernment is needed to determine when to continue struggling in a bad situation, and when to leave
- In all cases, God's people should be above board, faithful, and trustworthy – even to their own hurtPs 15:4

SUPPORTING PASSAGES

Prov 24:17-18 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Or the LORD will see it and be displeased, And turn His anger away from him

1Cor 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.