INTRODUCTION

- It’s time for Jacob to take his wives and 12 sons back to his homeland, but not without more drama ensuing.

**Passage**  
**Comments**

**Laban Buys 6 More Years Before Jacob Departs**

- V27. Laban realized he was blessed because of Jacob and he seeks a few more years of blessings......v31:41
- **Principle of Extended Blessings** – God blesses others through the presence of His children
- "I will bless those who bless you"..............Gen 12:3
- Unbelieving spouse is "sanctified" & kids are marked as "holy" through the believing spouse ......1Cor 7:14
- V33. “My honesty will answer for me later.” It often takes time for our testimony to become established, especially if we tarnish our testimony earlier.
  - Or, when a known liar tells you “I’m really telling you the truth this time,” do you really believe them?
  - Vv37-43. Did Jacob employ deception to abscond with Laban’s herds? And did God play along (v31:9)? Did he know of some genetic science we have yet to discover?
  - How true is “Once a Liar, always a Liar”? Or, “Once an Addict, always an Addict”? When does someone become a “New Creature”? ......2Cor 5:17; 1Cor 6:11

**It’s Time to Leave the In-Laws**

- V7. ‘And your father has deceived me, and changed my wages ten times...’ – Did Jacob reap what he sowed?
- V9. Jacob gave God credit for taking Laban’s wealth away and giving it to him. More principles on this:
  - The wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous ........................................Pr 13:22
  - The sinner has the task of gathering and collecting for the one who is good in God’s sight..............Ec 2:26
- Jacob receives confirmation to depart
  - V13. First from God in a dream – “Leave this land”
  - Vv14-16. Then from his 1st two wives, Rachel & Leah
  - How do we know when it is time to leave a family, leave a marriage, leave a church, leave a job?

**The Lies Continue with other Family Members...**

- V19. Rachel stole the family idols [teraphim]. What is wrong with taking some crucifixes or statues of angels? Or was this something more sinister? .........Josh 24:15
- V20. There is no indication Jacob thought through the what-if scenarios. Could his situation get worse?
  1. Would Laban let him go without pursuing?
  2. Would Laban pursue and destroy him?
  - He apparently took the path of least resistance by avoiding conflict, running away, & hoping for the best
  - When is it appropriate to avoid conflict?
  - When is it appropriate to break fellowship?

**Conclusion/Applications**

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

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 32. Jacob wrestles with a Heavenly Being and is never the same again. Are we saying a puny human whipped up on Heaven’s best? How can that be?

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