

UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

Genesis 29-30

We are studying the life of Jacob and discovering that God uses conflicted, complicated people. So, if you are conflicted and complicated, you are in good company. God still loves us and has a plan for our life.

We now enter the period of Jacob's life where we see him meet his wife, Rachel, marry her sister, Leah, and they all begin to have children and grow the family. (And you thought your life was a mess!) Let me suggest that you pay close attention, because everyone in this cast of characters is trying to control their future and manipulate their destiny.

OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

Observation #1: When morning comes God's grace will still be there, but so will certain consequences.

Jacob went to sleep with one perspective and awakened to another. Have you ever opened a gift only to wonder, "What is this?" and then you had to pretend you knew what it was and liked it? I can almost hear Jacob now, "Uncle Laban, why do you want to do me like this?" Well, maybe, Jacob, you are only reaping what you have sown. Now the trickster has been tricked! You've gotten your come-up-ins. You have met the ER! (Tricky-ER) When you live a lie, don't be surprised when your chickens come home to roost. I feel sure that Jacob thought he had gotten one over on God for those 7 years. God might let you think that for a while, but, eventually and ultimately, morning will come. *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. (Galatians 6:7)*

Observation #2: Leah achieved but never received approval; therefore, we can see that God selects what others reject.

Approval and achievement are two foundational motivators that drive our lives. For all of you Leah's, (*You know- rejected ones, overlooked, unloved, not popular, don't fit in*) God has a way of selecting you. Jacob didn't want Leah. God says, "I want Leah. I'm going to enable her to do what her sister can't do, because I'm the God who finds good use for what others throw away!"

Observation #3: Rachel received approval, but she couldn't achieve.

Rachel, the beautiful one, the wanted one – you'd think everything would be great. Can you believe some of the people you're jealous of are miserable on the inside? Some of the most popular people in the world cry themselves to sleep every night. Just because your life is beautiful on the outside doesn't mean it's fruitful on the inside. We're all drawn to see what we don't have.

Conclusion: Get past what's happening to you, and you can see what God's doing through you.

If we could show Rachel and Leah the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, they wouldn't feel so frustrated and rejected. The Savior of the world was born out of the rejection of a woman who was unloved by Jacob, and a woman who could not produce ended up producing the child that saved a whole nation. What seems to be your *problem* today may well be God's *promise* that blesses the world tomorrow!