

Laban Deceives Jacob

(Genesis 29:1-30)

Yearly Theme: “Love Is...”

Series Title: *Don't Go Your Own Way*

March 17th, 2019

Something to think about:

As we continue our story of Jacob's life (in the Old Testament), we find him having run from home after stealing his brother, Esau's, blessing. He runs to his uncle Laban's home to flee Esau's wrath, and will return when Esau has had a chance to cool off.

As we'll see, however, trouble follows Jacob wherever he goes. In today's narrative we see how demanding our own way can diminish the value of others. We see how deception can hurt even the most innocent of persons.

Genesis 29:1-30 (NLT)

¹ Then Jacob hurried on, finally arriving in the land of the east. ² He saw a well in the distance. Three flocks of sheep and goats lay in an open field beside it, waiting to be watered. But a heavy stone covered the mouth of the well.

³ It was the custom there to wait for all the flocks to arrive before removing the stone and watering the animals. Afterward the stone would be placed back over the mouth of the well. ⁴ Jacob went over to the shepherds and asked, “Where are you from, my friends?”

“We are from Haran,” they answered.

⁵ “Do you know a man there named Laban, the grandson of Nahor?” he asked.

“Yes, we do,” they replied.

⁶ “Is he doing well?” Jacob asked.

“Yes, he's well,” they answered. “Look, here comes his daughter Rachel with the flock now.”

⁷ Jacob said, “Look, it's still broad daylight—too early to round up the animals. Why don't you water the sheep and goats so they can get back out to pasture?”

⁸ “We can't water the animals until all the flocks have arrived,” they replied. “Then the shepherds move the stone from the mouth of the well, and we water all the sheep and goats.”

⁹ Jacob was still talking with them when Rachel arrived with her father's flock, for she was a shepherd. ¹⁰ And because Rachel was his cousin—the daughter of Laban, his mother's brother—and because the sheep and goats belonged to his uncle Laban, Jacob went over to the well and moved the stone from its mouth and watered his uncle's flock.

¹¹ Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and he wept aloud. ¹² He explained to Rachel that he was her cousin on her father's side—the son of her aunt Rebekah. So Rachel quickly ran and told her father, Laban.

¹³ As soon as Laban heard that his nephew Jacob had arrived, he ran out to meet him. He embraced and kissed him and brought him home. When Jacob had told him his story,

¹⁴ Laban exclaimed, “You really are my own flesh and blood!”

After Jacob had stayed with Laban for about a month, ¹⁵ Laban said to him, “You shouldn't work for me without pay just because we are relatives. Tell me how much your wages should be.”

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters. The older daughter was named Leah, and the younger one was Rachel. ¹⁷ There was no sparkle in Leah's eyes, but Rachel had a beautiful figure and a lovely face. ¹⁸ Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he told her father, “I'll work for you for seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife.”

¹⁹ “Agreed!” Laban replied. “I'd rather give her to you than to anyone else. Stay and work with me.” ²⁰ So Jacob worked seven years to pay for Rachel. But his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days.

²¹ Finally, the time came for him to marry her. “I have fulfilled my agreement,” Jacob said to Laban. “Now give me my wife so I can marry her.”

²² So Laban invited everyone in the neighborhood and prepared a wedding feast.

²³ But that night, when it was dark, Laban took Leah to Jacob, and he slept with her.

²⁴ (Laban had given Leah a servant, Zilpah, to be her maid.)

²⁵ But when Jacob woke up in the morning—it was Leah! “What have you done to me?” Jacob raged at Laban. “I worked seven years for Rachel! Why have you tricked me?”

²⁶ “It's not our custom here to marry off a younger daughter ahead of the firstborn,” Laban replied. ²⁷ “But wait until the bridal week is over, then we'll give you Rachel, too—provided you promise to work another seven years for me.”

²⁸ So Jacob agreed to work seven more years. A week after Jacob had married Leah, Laban gave him Rachel, too. ²⁹ (Laban gave Rachel a servant, Bilhah, to be her maid.) ³⁰ So Jacob slept with Rachel, too, and he loved her much more than Leah. He then stayed and worked for Laban the additional seven years.

The one phrase that sums this passage up is...

Key Point: “Demanding our own way diminishes the value of others.”

How does deception, and demanding our own way, devalue others? Here's what we know...

1. Laban's daughters are pawns in his game of deceit.

When others become a means to an end rather than people worthy of respect as the image bearers of God, then we've stepped out of God's command to love our neighbor as ourselves.

2. Of the two daughters, Leah's worth is greatly devalued by both Laban and Jacob.

When we fail to honor others because of the way they look, we lose sight of the unique individuality of God's divine imprint on their soul.

Something to take home:

How often have you devalued others by disrespecting their worth as image bearers of God? How often have you demanded your own way to get what you wanted? Have you connived and schemed in order to leverage circumstances to your benefit at the expense of others? Have others been hurt by your willingness to get what you want at any cost?

Genesis 1:27 (NLT), “So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Key Point: “Demanding our own way diminishes the value of others.”

NOTES:

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 18 horizontal lines.



North Main Exists to...

"Develop completely committed followers of Christ who:

Know Christ intimately,
Grow in Christ continually, and,
Go for Christ daily;

Through:
Core Families,
Community Partnerships, and
Global Connections.

don't go
your
own
way

JACOB'S STORY

LESSON 3:
"LABAN DECEIVES JACOB"
(GENESIS 29:1-30)

Laban Deceives Jacob

(Genesis 29:1-30)

Series Title: *Don't Go Your Own Way*

KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ How does lying hurt the ones we love the most?
- ⇒ Have you ever lied to someone you love? Did it hurt the relationship? Explain...

SCRIPTURE: (Before studying this material, consider listening to the corresponding message online at: <http://www.northmaincog.org/media/sermon-media>)

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¹ Then Jacob hurried on, finally arriving in the land of the east. ² He saw a well in the distance. Three flocks of sheep and goats lay in an open field beside it, waiting to be watered. But a heavy stone covered the mouth of the well. ³ It was the custom there to wait for all the flocks to arrive before removing the stone and watering the animals. Afterward the stone would be placed back over the mouth of the well. ⁴ Jacob went over to the shepherds and asked, "Where are you from, my friends?" "We are from Haran," they answered. ⁵ "Do you know a man there named Laban, the grandson of Nahor?" he asked. "Yes, we do," they replied. ⁶ "Is he doing well?" Jacob asked. "Yes, he's well," they answered. "Look, here comes his daughter Rachel with the flock now." ⁷ Jacob said, "Look, it's still broad daylight—too early to round up the animals. Why don't you water the sheep and goats so they can get back out to pasture?" ⁸ "We can't water the animals until all the flocks have arrived," they replied. "Then the shepherds move the stone from the mouth of the well, and we water all the sheep and goats." ⁹ Jacob was still talking with them when Rachel arrived with her father's flock, for she was a shepherd. ¹⁰ And because Rachel was his cousin—the daughter of Laban, his mother's brother—and because the sheep and goats belonged to his uncle Laban, Jacob went over to the well and moved the stone from its mouth and watered his uncle's flock. ¹¹ Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and he wept aloud. ¹² He explained to Rachel that he was her cousin on her father's side—the son of her aunt Rebekah. So Rachel quickly ran and told her father, Laban. ¹³ As soon as Laban heard that his nephew Jacob had arrived, he ran out to meet him. He embraced and kissed him and brought him home. When Jacob had told him his story, ¹⁴ Laban exclaimed, "You really are my own flesh and blood!" After Jacob had stayed with Laban for about a month, ¹⁵ Laban said to him, "You shouldn't work for me without pay just because we are relatives. Tell me how much your wages should be." ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters. The older daughter was named Leah, and the younger one was Rachel. ¹⁷ There was no sparkle in Leah's eyes, but Rachel had a beautiful figure and a lovely face. ¹⁸ Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he told her father, "I'll work for you for seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife." ¹⁹ "Agreed!" Laban replied. "I'd rather give her to you than to anyone else. Stay and work with me." ²⁰ So Jacob worked seven years to pay for Rachel. But his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days. ²¹ Finally, the time came for him to marry her. "I have fulfilled my agreement," Jacob said to Laban. "Now give me my wife so I can marry her." ²² So Laban invited everyone in the neighborhood and prepared a wedding feast. ²³ But that night, when it was dark, Laban took Leah to Jacob, and he slept with her. ²⁴ (Laban had given Leah a servant, Zilpah, to be her maid.) ²⁵ But when Jacob woke up in the morning—it was Leah! "What have you done to me?" Jacob raged at Laban. "I worked seven years for Rachel! Why have you tricked me?" ²⁶ "It's not our custom here to marry off a younger daughter ahead of the firstborn," Laban replied. ²⁷ "But wait until the bridal week is over, then we'll give you Rachel, too—provided you promise to work another seven years for me." ²⁸ So Jacob agreed to work seven more years. A week after Jacob had married Leah, Laban gave him Rachel, too. ²⁹ (Laban gave Rachel a servant, Bilhah, to be her maid.) ³⁰ So Jacob slept with Rachel, too, and he loved her much more than Leah. He then stayed and worked for Laban the additional seven years.

GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. What's going on in this passage of Scripture. Give a brief synopsis:

2. Jacob left home fleeing the wrath of his brother Esau. He is now in the land of the east where his uncle Laban lives (his mother, Rebekah's, brother). How does Jacob first meet his cousin Rachel and what are his first responses toward her (vv. 9-12)?

3. How was Jacob received by his uncle Laban (vv. 13-14)?

4. Jacob had worked for Laban for a month when he finally decided to offer Jacob pay for his labor. Jacob negotiated an agreement with Laban. What was the agreement, and what was Laban's response (vv. 16-20)?

5. Once seven years had passed Jacob was ready to marry Rachel. What happens next (vv. 21-25)?

6. What was Laban's response to Jacob after having deceived him (v. 26)?

7. Laban struck another deal with Jacob after the trickery. What was the deal Laban made with Jacob (vv. 27-30)?

8. How did Laban use his daughters to get what he wanted out of Jacob? What was the result of using his daughters as bargaining tool rather than holding them in high honor and esteem? Does this happen today?

9. Read Genesis 1:27. Each person is created in the very image of God. How are we to treat others that are different from us? Why is it important to show honor, love, and respect to others? How does demanding our own way diminish the value of others?

SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU** devalued others by disrespecting their worth as image bearers of God? How often have you demanded your own way to get what you wanted? Have you connived and schemed in order to leverage circumstances to your benefit at the expense of others? Have others been hurt by your willingness to get what you want at any cost? Have you ever been hurt in these ways? How did you overcome it?
- ⇒ **HOW DOES DEMANDING** our own way diminish the value of others? What can you do this week to show respect and kindness to others in practical "life-giving" ways?
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSE:** *Genesis 29:28-30* and *Genesis 1:27*.