



# Jacob Deceives Laban

(Genesis 30:25-43)

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

## KICK STARTERS:

- ⇒ How does lying ultimately hurt us in the end?
- ⇒ Tell about a time when you demanded your own way and the results aren't quite what you expected...

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

*Genesis 30:25-43 (NLT)*

<sup>25</sup> Soon after Rachel had given birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Please release me so I can go home to my own country. <sup>26</sup> Let me take my wives and children, for I have earned them by serving you, and let me be on my way. You certainly know how hard I have worked for you."

<sup>27</sup> "Please listen to me," Laban replied. "I have become wealthy, for the LORD has blessed me because of you. <sup>28</sup> Tell me how much I owe you. Whatever it is, I'll pay it."

<sup>29</sup> Jacob replied, "You know how hard I've worked for you, and how your flocks and herds have grown under my care. <sup>30</sup> You had little indeed before I came, but your wealth has increased enormously. The LORD has blessed you through everything I've done. But now, what about me? When can I start providing for my own family?"

<sup>31</sup> "What wages do you want?" Laban asked again.

Jacob replied, "Don't give me anything. Just do this one thing, and I'll continue to tend and watch over your flocks. <sup>32</sup> Let me inspect your flocks today and remove all the sheep and goats that are speckled or spotted, along with all the black sheep. Give these to me as my wages. <sup>33</sup> In the future, when you check on the animals you have given me as my wages, you'll see that I have been honest. If you find in my flock any goats without speckles or spots, or any sheep that are not black, you will know that I have stolen them from you."

<sup>34</sup> "All right," Laban replied. "It will be as you say." <sup>35</sup> But that very day Laban went out and removed the male goats that were streaked and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted or had white patches, and all the black sheep. He placed them in the care of his own sons, <sup>36</sup> who took them a three-days' journey from where Jacob was. Meanwhile, Jacob stayed and cared for the rest of Laban's flock.

<sup>37</sup> Then Jacob took some fresh branches from poplar, almond, and plane trees and peeled off strips of bark, making white streaks on them. <sup>38</sup> Then he placed these peeled branches in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, for that was where they mated. <sup>39</sup> And when they mated in front of the white-streaked branches, they gave birth to young that were streaked, speckled, and spotted. <sup>40</sup> Jacob separated those lambs from Laban's flock. And at mating time he turned the flock to face Laban's animals that were streaked or black. This is how he built his own flock instead of increasing Laban's.

<sup>41</sup> Whenever the stronger females were ready to mate, Jacob would place the peeled branches in the watering troughs in front of them. Then they would mate in front of the branches. <sup>42</sup> But he didn't do this with the weaker ones, so the weaker lambs belonged to Laban, and the stronger ones were Jacob's. <sup>43</sup> As a result, Jacob became very wealthy, with large flocks of sheep and goats, male and female servants, and many camels and donkeys.

## GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. What's going on in this passage of Scripture. Give a brief synopsis:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Jacob has spent over 14 years working for Laban and making him prosperous, and now he desires to take his wives and children back to his hometown and start a life of his own. What plan does Jacob present to Laban to make this a reality (vv. 31-33)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is Laban's response to Jacob's proposition (v. 34)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In order to make it more difficult for Jacob, what does Laban do to thwart Jacob's efforts (vv. 35-36)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Countering Laban's tactics, what does Jacob do in response (vv. 37-42)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did God help Jacob prosper over Laban (v. 43)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Many of us have had Jacob's experience. We play by the rules. We work hard, and are diligent to overcome obstacles and difficulties, only to find that it's near to impossible to break free from bondage and make it on our own. What does Jesus say is the key to living free (read Matthew 16:24-26)? How is this different from the world's advice for living a life of freedom?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. In order for God to fight for us, we must be willing to seek Him and trust Him. Is this easy? Explain...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Too often we believe that we must fight for our rights, when—all the while—God wants us to trust Him and let Him fight for us. When was the last time you fully and completely relied *on*, and trusted *in*, God to see you through?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SELF-EVALUATION/APPLICATION:

- ⇒ **LIKE JACOB**, are you willing to go through the fire in order to come out alive on the other side? Or, like Laban, are you willing to connive and scheme to get your own way only to come up empty handed in the long run?
- ⇒ **WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**, but without God, nothing is impossible. The person who is fully surrendered to God, and who completely seeks God and trusts Him, knows this fully and completely. Your situation may seem dire. Your circumstance may seem impossible to overcome. But, God is able! Do you believe? Do you trust? Are you free from sin and death through salvation in Jesus Christ? Are you living for Him rather than for yourself? If you want to be set free, if you want deliverance, today is the day!
- ⇒ **MEMORY VERSES:** *Genesis 30:27* and *Matthew 16:24-26*.

# Jacob Deceives Laban

(Genesis 30:25-43)

Yearly Theme: “Love Is...”

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

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

---

## Something to think about:

Sometimes our pride gets the best of us, and rather than bow out gracefully, or admit that we're wrong, we will go down with the sinking ship of our own stubbornness.

There are many people who plan and scheme, and scheme and plan, only to come up empty handed in the long run. Have you ever done this?

Now, don't get me wrong, it's not all bad to fight for the right things even when it affects us, but are we fighting for the right reasons? We have to take a good hard, long look at our motives. If we're fighting to get our own way to the point that we're willing to set pitfalls for others in the process, we will ultimately end up reaping what we sow. However, if we're fighting for truth and justice and the things of God, then we'll always end up on the right side no matter the cost.

This is where we pick up Jacob's ongoing saga today. Let's take a look...

## Genesis 30:25-43 (NLT)

<sup>25</sup> Soon after Rachel had given birth to Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, “Please release me so I can go home to my own country. <sup>26</sup> Let me take my wives and children, for I have earned them by serving you, and let me be on my way. You certainly know how hard I have worked for you.”

<sup>27</sup> “Please listen to me,” Laban replied. “I have become wealthy, for the LORD has blessed me because of you. <sup>28</sup> Tell me how much I owe you. Whatever it is, I'll pay it.”

<sup>29</sup> Jacob replied, “You know how hard I've worked for you, and how your flocks and herds have grown under my care. <sup>30</sup> You had little indeed before I came, but your wealth has increased enormously. The LORD has blessed you through everything I've done. But now, what about me? When can I start providing for my own family?”

<sup>31</sup> “What wages do you want?” Laban asked again.

Jacob replied, “Don't give me anything. Just do this one thing, and I'll continue to tend and watch over your flocks. <sup>32</sup> Let me inspect your flocks today and remove all the sheep and goats that are speckled or spotted, along with all the black sheep. Give these to me as my wages. <sup>33</sup> In the future, when you check on the animals you have given me as my wages, you'll see that I have been honest. If you find in my flock any goats without speckles or spots, or any sheep that are not black, you will know that I have stolen them from you.”

<sup>34</sup> “All right,” Laban replied. “It will be as you say.” <sup>35</sup> But that very day Laban went out and removed the male goats that were streaked and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted or had white patches, and all the black sheep. He placed them in the care of his own sons, <sup>36</sup> who took them a three-days' journey from where Jacob was. Meanwhile, Jacob stayed and cared for the rest of Laban's flock.

<sup>37</sup> Then Jacob took some fresh branches from poplar, almond, and plane trees and peeled off strips of bark, making white streaks on them. <sup>38</sup> Then he placed these peeled branches in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, for that was where they

mated. <sup>39</sup> And when they mated in front of the white-streaked branches, they gave birth to young that were streaked, speckled, and spotted. <sup>40</sup> Jacob separated those lambs from Laban's flock. And at mating time he turned the flock to face Laban's animals that were streaked or black. This is how he built his own flock instead of increasing Laban's.

<sup>41</sup> Whenever the stronger females were ready to mate, Jacob would place the peeled branches in the watering troughs in front of them. Then they would mate in front of the branches. <sup>42</sup> But he didn't do this with the weaker ones, so the weaker lambs belonged to Laban, and the stronger ones were Jacob's. <sup>43</sup> As a result, Jacob became very wealthy, with large flocks of sheep and goats, male and female servants, and many camels and donkeys.

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

**Key Point:** “Demanding our own way will ultimately hurt us in the end.”

How does deception, and demanding our own way, ultimately hurt us in the end? Here's what we know from the story today...

### 1. Jacob worked diligently, and patiently, to overcome his oppressive uncle Laban.

Genesis 30:29-30 (NLT), <sup>29</sup> Jacob replied, “You know how hard I've worked for you, and how your flocks and herds have grown under my care. <sup>30</sup> You had little indeed before I came, but your wealth has increased enormously. The LORD has blessed you through everything I've done. But now, what about me? When can I start providing for my own family?”

### 2. Laban's efforts to outmaneuver Jacob, and Jacob's God, were in vain.

Genesis 30:34-36 (NLT), <sup>34</sup> “All right,” Laban replied. “It will be as you say.” <sup>35</sup> But that very day Laban went out and removed the male goats that were streaked and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted or had white patches, and all the black sheep. He placed them in the care of his own sons, <sup>36</sup> who took them a three-days' journey from where Jacob was. Meanwhile, Jacob stayed and cared for the rest of Laban's flock.

### 3. Laban's selfish motives backfired when God intervened.

Genesis 30:43 (NLT), <sup>43</sup> As a result, Jacob became very wealthy, with large flocks of sheep and goats, male and female servants, and many camels and donkeys.

## Something to take home:

Like Jacob, are you willing to go through the fire in order to come out alive on the other side? Or, like Laban, are you willing to connive and scheme to get your own way only to come up empty handed in the long run?

**Key Point:** “Demanding our own way will ultimately hurt us in the end.”