

Sermon Notes and Home Group Guidance
Week following 15 May: Genesis 29v1-30v43
A nation is born

Introduction: Jacob sets out to find a wife and ends up with two, due to the machinations of his uncle Laban. Having tricked his elder brother out of his father's blessing, Jacob is tricked into marrying Laban's elder daughter in place of the younger.

Read [Genesis 29v1-30v43](#), then answer the following questions:

To clarify understanding

- a. (29:19) ***"It's better that I give her to you than to some other man."*** Does Laban actually promise to give Rachel to Jacob?
- b. (29:26) How does Laban's reply echo Jacob's own deception?

To encourage honest response

- a. How has God spoken to you through this text and sermon? What questions does it raise in your mind?
- b. (29:25) ***"And in the morning, behold, it was Leah!"*** (ESV) The trickster has been tricked. Jacob meets his match in Laban. Is there a 'Laban' in your life who you find difficult/irritating precisely because they hold a mirror up to your own flaws (no need to name names!)? How might God be working through that person in your life?
- c. (29:28) ***"He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel"; "There were three of us in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded."*** (Princess Diana, 1995) A royal lineage secured through a miserable alliance. For it would be through Leah that the royal tribe of Judah, and ultimately the Messiah, would come. We are reminded that God can use our disappointments for His glory. Are there any areas of sadness/disappointment which you need to commit to the Lord?
- d. (29:30) ***"...and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah"*** The wrong wife becomes the wronged wife. But God was at work. It was through this dysfunctional mess of a family that God would fulfil his promise of [Genesis 28:14](#). How should that encourage us in the messiness of our own lives?
- e. ***"Surely my husband will love me now."*** (v32); ***"Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons."*** (v34); ***"This time I will praise the Lord."*** (v35) Leah craves Jacob's love. God's blessings (Reuben, Simeon, Levi) seem only to fuel her sense of woe. The turning point comes only as she turns from her own misery to praising the Lord. How might we learn from her example?

Prayer

- a. Thank God that He is close to the broken-hearted, the rejected and the hurting.
- b. Pray that each of us might keep our focus on the Lord through trials and adversity.