

A Study in Genesis: The Deceiver Deceived

Scripture Focus: Genesis 29:15-30

“What goes around comes around.” That could be the alternate heading for the lesson this week. The one who deceived his father and stole the blessing of his elder brother now finds himself the victim of a scheming, soon to be, father-in-law. Jacob, upon meeting Rachel, Laban’s younger daughter, seems to fall head over heels in love (29:9-12). He shows off his strength by moving a very large stone, kisses Rachel, and weeps.

Upon having the opportunity to then speak with Rachel’s father, a deal is struck that Jacob will work for Laban for seven years (v. 18) for the right to marry Rachel, and that he does. However, when the wedding day arrives, the elder daughter Leah is switched for Rachel (v. 23). Realizing what happened, after the marriage had been consummated, Jacob asked Laban, “*What is this you have done to me?*” Jacob was deceived by Laban and must now work for Laban another seven years in order to take the younger daughter as his wife – which, because he can’t seem to live without Rachel, he agrees to do (vv. 27-30).

- This seems like a very different Jacob compared to the one in the previous chapter - a man on the run, making deals with God for protection. What has changed and why?
- To what extent are you surprised that Jacob was willing to go along with Laban’s demand that if he wants Rachel to be his wife, along with Leah, he’ll need to serve him for another seven years?
- Is there a morale to this story? If so, what is it?
- The one previously known for bargaining birthrights and swindling blessings and attempting to strike deals with God, now is the one who loves with tenacity, a singleness of purpose. How does human love give us a glimpse into the love of God?

We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. (1 John 4:21)

But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. (Luke 6:27-28).