

(Genesis 29:1 – 30:24)  
“A Messy Situation”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: “A Messy Situation.”

~ INTRO ~

OK...

- Remember the big picture at this point in the Bible.

GOD HAS A SPECIFIC PLAN IN (GENESIS)...

- And He's unfolding it... WITH specific characters – “*The Patriarchs:*”

- 1) Abraham
- 2) Isaac
- 3) **Jacob**
  - **Twelve sons** (tribes of Israel)
- 4) Joseph

~ STUDY ~

NOW... REMEMBER THE SETTING...

- Jacob is running from his brother Esau...
  - And he's fleeing from Beersheba... 450-miles to the north...
    - To his mother's brother (Laban) in Haran.

AND... ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF THIS JOURNEY...

- God appeared to him in a dream as says: (**Gen. 28:15**)
  - 1) *I am with you* = Companionship
  - 2) *Will keep you* = Safety
  - 3) *Will bring you back* = Guidance
  - 4) *Will not leave you* = Personal guarantee

SO (**Chp. #28**) ENDED...

- With Jacobs response to God's promises.
  - He committed to honoring God with all of his increase...
    - (**Gen 28:22**).

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IT’S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL THING...

- When a person begins to grow in the Lord and the lights come on.

MANY TIMES THE WORD OF GOD...

- Goes out from this stage and the message is missed!
  - Because the simple things of God are passed over by individuals.

IN OUR NEXT STEPS CLASSES...

- We pass out a questionnaire with what people are looking for in a church.
  - The top answer is always:
    - I want a church that teaches the Bible.

BUT... THINK ABOUT IT...

HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN CHURCH...

- To honor the Lord with your increase?
  - Yet how many of you are still unfaithful with your money?

\*Listen... money management is ALWAYS an issue of heart for the Christian!

- If you keep overlooking it in your life...
  - God will never entrust you with more...
    - Because you’re resisting Him & not being faithful!

AT 77-YEARS OLD...

- Jacob finally got the message!
  - And he begins to submit his life to God (Gen 28:22).

**IDEA #1 – WHOSE BEHIND THE VEIL:** (Gen. 29:1-25)

(Gen. 29:1)

- Jacob arrives in Haran...
  - And goes to the place where the local shepherds gather.
- There he runs into his cousin – Rachael (vv.10-14).

NEXT...

- He’s hired by his uncle to tend his sheep (v.15)...
  - He falls in love with Rachel (v.18)...
    - And he makes a deal with Uncle Laban to marry her...
      - (vv.18-22).

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HOWEVER...

- On the night of the wedding...
  - Laban swapped his older daughter Leah for Rachael (vv.23-25).

THINK ABOUT THIS...

- Jacob was *deceived* in the exact same way he had deceived his dad...
  - Back in (Gen. 27:27-29) he pretended to be his brother Esau!

WE OFTEN THINK...

- That if we had a change of location...
  - Things would get better in our life.

BUT THE REALITY OF IT IS...

- The problem lies within us...
  - And that's what God will deal with in Jacob for the next 20-years.

GOD CAN BRING HIS PLAN FOR OUR LIVES TO PASS...

- But we often make a mess of it when we try to manipulate our ways.

GOD WAS CHANGING JACOB...

- The same character lesson every believer goes thru.
  - (Learning to deal honestly with God & others.)

**IDEA #2 – JACOB'S CHILDREN:** (Gen. 29:26 – 30:24)

WELL...

- Jacob serves another 7-years...
  - AND... a week later takes Rachael as his second wife.

NOW... WE MUST ANSWER THE QUESTION...

- Regarding polygamy (multiple wives) in the O.T.

**The answer is simple:**

*The Bible does not specifically say why God allowed polygamy, and we must remember that allowance is not the same as approval.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Got Questions Ministry. *Why Did God Allow Polygamy?* Sourced from <https://www.gotquestions.org/polygamy.html>. Copywrite 2002- 2023.

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CONSIDER...

- How many things godless people get away with...
  - Yet we realize God’s plan & man’s accountability will happen.

THE N.T.

- Underscores God’s original design of one man & one woman...
  - Which started in (Gen. 2).

SO... AS THE STORYLINE CONTINUES...

- Jacob has two-wives Leah & Rachel... (two sisters).
  - And this quickly expands into a painful family drama!
    - Where one woman was loved less – Leah (v.31)...
      - And one woman was barren – Rachael (v.31).

AND A BITTER RIVALRY BETWEEN SISTERS...

- Extends into two more women marrying Jacob...
  - And having children with him.

READ (Gen. 30:1-5).

THIS IS WHAT THE FAMILY TREE LOOKS LIKE:

- Wife #1 = Leah
  - Son #1 = Ruben (Gen 29:32)
  - Son #2 = Simeon (Gen. 29:33)
  - Son #3 = Levi (Gen. 29:34)
  - Son #4 = Judah (Gen. 29:35)
  - Son #5 (born 9<sup>th</sup>) = Issachar (Gen. 30:17-18)
  - Son #6 (born 10<sup>th</sup>) = Zebulun (Gen. 30:19-20)
  - Daughter #1 = Dinah (Gen. 30:21)
- Wife #2 = Rachel
  - Son #1 (born 11<sup>th</sup>) = Joseph (Gen. 30:21-24)
  - Son #2 (born 12<sup>th</sup>) = Benjamin (Gen. 35:16-19)
- Wife #3 = Bilhah (Rachael’s maidservant)

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- Son #1 (born 5<sup>th</sup>) = Dan (Gen. 30:5-6)
- Son #2 (born 6<sup>th</sup>) = Naphtali (Gen. 30:7-8)
- Wife #4 = Zilpah (Leah's maidservant)
  - Son #1 (born 7<sup>th</sup>) = Gad (Gen. 30:10-11)
  - Son #2 (born 8<sup>th</sup>) = Asher (Gen. 30:12-13)

A TOTAL OF 12-SONS & 1-DAUGHTER.

- These sons will make up the 12-tribes of Israel.

*~ IN CLOSING ~*

MAYBE YOU'RE PART OF A BLENDED FAMILY...

- And wonder how God is going to use you.
  - Be encouraged to know that God's ways are above man's ways...
    - And the plans He has for you are for a future & a hope!
- Or maybe you're in a season where God is developing character...
  - In you and you need to adjust your ways.

LISTEN DON'T WAIT!

- Get right tonight and allow the blessings of God...
  - To begin flowing in your life again.