

(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**
 - o **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...
 - o 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...
 - o **(Gen 28:22).**

(Genesis 29:1 – 30:24)

“A Messy Situation”

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 final got the message!
 - And he begins to submit his life to God ([Gen 28:22](#)).

IDEA #1 – WHOSE BE HIND 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](#)).

(Genesis 29:1 – 30:24)

“A Messy Situation”

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.¹

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

(Genesis 29:1 – 30:24)

“A Messy Situation”

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 9th) = Issachar [\(Gen. 30:17-18\)](#)
 - Son #6 (born 10th) = Zebulun [\(Gen. 30:19-20\)](#)
 - Daughter #1 = Dinah [\(Gen. 30:21\)](#)
- Wife #2 = Rachel
 - Son #1 (born 11th) = **Joseph** [\(Gen. 30:21-24\)](#)
 - Son #2 (born 12th) = Benjamin [\(Gen. 35:16-19\)](#)
- Wife #3 = Bilhah (Racheal's maidservant)

(Genesis 29:1 – 30:24)

“A Messy Situation”

- Son #1 (born 5th) = Dan ([Gen. 30:5-6](#))
- Son #2 (born 6th) = Naphtali ([Gen. 30:7-8](#))
- Wife #4 = Zilpah (Leah’s maidservant)
 - Son #1 (born 7th) = Gad ([Gen. 30:10-11](#))
 - Son #2 (born 8th) = 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.