

ii. Zebulun: *"God has presented me with a precious gift (zebed). This time my husband will treat me with honor (zebal), because I have borne him six sons."* (20)

iii. Dinah (21)

a) Dinah is named because she makes a total of seven.

b) Dinah is the feminine form of Dan.

C. The moment Leah feels some sense of honor from God, God remembers Rachel and she bears a son.

i. Joseph: *"Do it again, Lord!"* (24)

ii. The mandrakes didn't work, but the Lord is at work.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- This text was first given to the people of Israel while they were in the wilderness. What kinds of questions and concerns might they have had that this text speaks to?
- Does it surprise you just how dysfunctional this family was? Or for that matter how openly the Bible is to describes it? What did the Lord do in redemptive history with this dysfunctional family?
- For the ladies: Who can you relate to more – Rachel or Leah? Explain.
- For the men: What lessons might we learn from Jacob in this scene?
- Have you craved the love of another? A spouse, or parent? A child, or sibling? The approval of someone else? Is this something you have trusted the Lord with consistently? Has it led you to manipulate rather than faith?
- How is God's blessing on Leah similar and different from His choice of Jacob? How is God's dealing with Rachel different than His dealing with Esau?
- How does 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 reflect truths which are taught in our text today?

Genesis: Truth for Understanding the World (Part 20) Blessing in the Midst of Broken Human Relationships

Jerry Cisar — October 16, 2016

Text: Genesis 29:31—30:24

Introduction

I. Leah's Longing (Genesis 29:31-35)

A. "The Lord saw..." and, "the Lord heard..."

i. Exodus 3:7

ii. The Lord's concern leads to action.

B. A parallel with Jacob and Esau.

i. **There** the Lord chose the younger over the older.

ii. **Here**, we see the same principle at work. Here the Lord chooses that which people reject.

a) 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

b) He loves you, not because your unloveliness has something to offer Him, but because of something found in Him.

C. The meaning of the names tells us a story of brokenness.

i. Reuben: *"It is because the LORD has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now."* (32)

ii. Simeon: *"Because the LORD heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too."* (33)

iii. Levi: *"Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons."* (34)

iv. Judah: "This time I will praise the LORD." (35)

ii. Asher: "How happy I am! The women will call me happy." (13)

II. Rachel's Jealousy (Genesis 30:1-8)

- A. Rachel was loved and favored, but longed to have the blessing.
- i. Rachel the beauty queen, the loved bride, is jealous... envious.
 - ii. if God won't give Rachel a family, she will intervene.
 - iii. Rachel's envy leads her to throw the husband who loves her into the hands of another woman.
- B. Once again the names tell the story:
- i. Dan: "God has vindicated me; he has listened to my plea and given me a son." Dan mean either judgment or vindication. (6)
 - ii. Naphtali: "I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won." (8)
 - a) Jacob's wrestling with God and prevailing.
 - b) "I have outwitted by sister in all our scheming against each other! I win!"

III. Leah's Relapse (Genesis 30:9-13)

- A. Leah also works against her desire for her husband's love.
- i. Gad: "What good fortune!" (11)

B. What does the Bible teach about Polygamy?

- i.
 - a) Don't confuse what the bible describes with what it prescribes.
 - b) Genesis 2:24
 - c) The scripture often warns various people against the dangers of polygamy.
- ii. What is the question?
 - a) The Gospel comes to transform lives by making peace between God and man. Peace with God leads to peace between people. Changing how people live toward each other won't create peace with God.
 - b) To describe or even to make changes within an existing structure is not to condone it.
- iii. The only prescriptions the Bible makes re: marriage are monogamous. The accounts involving polygamy either make no moral evaluation or reveal its negative consequences.

IV. Rachel Outwits Herself! (Gen 30:14-24)

A. Rachel is back to her craftiness and scheming. This time it backfires and she outwits herself.

B. The Story in the Names

- i. Issachar: "God has rewarded me for giving my servant to my husband." (18)