

The Unexamined Life > Genesis 29:1-30

29:1-12 Jacob's journey comes to an end: he arrives to find that the shepherds know Laban and, by God's providence, Rachel (a daughter of Laban), happens to be coming to the well right at that time. In a show of strength, Jacob opens the well and allows the sheep to be watered.

29:13-20 Jacob is led to Laban, who receives him as family. After a month, Laban offers to compensate Jacob for his labor, which Jacob takes as an opportunity to ask for Rachel's hand in marriage. While Laban does appear to agree, we get hints of what is to come through how Rachel is compared with her older sister, Leah.

29:21-30 Jacob serves for seven years and then demands Rachel be given to him. Laban holds the wedding but, in the process, gives Leah to Jacob instead of Rachel. Jacob doesn't realize this until the morning, and he confronts Laban only to be told that it wouldn't be right to give Rachel in marriage before Leah. He then agrees to work another seven years for Rachel, but struggles in the new family are already appearing.

Context: Jacob has left home so that he can find a wife. On the way, he was assured of the Abrahamic promises by God.

Aim: God will uphold His promises, but that doesn't mean that our sins won't have consequences.

Gospel: In Christ, we get the grace we don't deserve and – ultimately – the mercy we could never earn.

Applications: Do you trust the Lord even when He lets you bear some of the consequences of your own sins?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
