

In Spite of Ourselves > Genesis 30:25-43

30:25-34 Jacob has reached a point – now that his beloved Rachel has borne a son – where he wishes to return to his family lands. That said, he doesn't want to return empty-handed and makes a proposal to Laban (who doesn't want to lose a worker who brings God's blessing into his own life) to have something for when he leaves. Laban sees that Jacob's proposal will benefit him greatly, and so agrees to it...

30:35-36 ...but that doesn't mean Laban trusts Jacob. He culls his own flocks so that Jacob will have an even harder time benefiting from the deal that they have agreed upon.

30:37-43 However, Jacob is ready for this and ends up amassing a flock that is not only worthy of recognition, but one that is also healthier than Laban's own. Added to his other gains in life, Jacob has now become quite wealthy.

Context: Jacob's trickery was countered by Laban's own deception with Leah and Rachel. Now Laban is seeking to unfairly enrich himself in his deal with Jacob.

Aim: Those who belong to the Lord – whatever their own personal failings – shall enjoy His blessing. Not because of their own works, but because of God's grace and mercy.

Gospel: In spite of our own wrong ideas, our sins, and ourselves, we are offered eternal blessing in Christ.

Applications: Is there something in your life that you are trying to force God to act on? Or a matter you've taken into your own hands? What would it look like to trust the Lord's plan instead of your own? How can you follow Jesus in that?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
