

**Jacob
Gets Married**
Genesis 29:1-30

Jacob Gets Married

Begin with prayer

Read: Genesis 29:1-30

Listen: THRU the BIBLE: [Genesis 29:1-30](#)

Dear God,

As we study Your Word, open our eyes to the ways we deceive ourselves and others. Help us recognise that what we sow, we will reap. Give us the humility to accept Your discipline and the wisdom to walk honestly before You.

Amen.



Time to Go



Genesis 29:1-30

Up until now, **Jacob had gotten through life by being arrogant and clever and had perfected deceit.** He would stoop to use any dishonest method to accomplish his purpose, and he was proud of it. **But now he would reap what he had sown.** Jacob is ready to leave Bethel, the place where **he saw a vision of Jesus Christ as the ladder to heaven.** He resumed his journey and, after a time, arrived in Haran.

The first thing he saw was a **well with a rock over its mouth.** The water in this well is so important that it is protected by the rock. At a certain time in the day, the stone was removed from the top of the well, **and then everybody watered their sheep.** Once everybody got the water they needed, the stone was put back on to close the well.

When Jacob arrived, the rock was still in place. **He first asks, “Where are we?” When they answered, “Haran,” he asked if anyone knew Laban, the son of Nahor. “Yes, that’s his daughter, Rachel, coming with their sheep.”**

Jacob Gets Married

While they were talking, Rachel arrived with her flock. As soon as Jacob saw her, he **rolled the stone from the well and watered the flocks** for her. Nobody told him to water Rachel’s flock, but he did it. Jacob made up the rules as he went through life, that is, the first part of his life. Now he was about to learn a **tremendous lesson**, and Uncle Laban would be the one to teach him.



Time to Reap what Jacob Sowed

When he meets his relative, Rachel, he kisses her and is **overwhelmed with emotion and cries with joy. Jacob is her father's nephew, son of Rebekah, her father's sister.** When Laban heard the good news, he ran out to meet Jacob, hugged and kissed him, and brought him into the house. Jacob likely entertained them at dinner with his stories from the road, and **how he tricked his brother** to get his birthright, and how **he used trickery to get the blessing.**

Laban was convinced now that this was his nephew, and he said, **"You're my relative, so come in and make yourself at home."** Then a month went by. As a nephew from a far country, Jacob was not working. He was also likely spending time with Rachel. One morning, Laban said to Jacob, **"Listen, I don't want you to work for me for nothing, so let's work out an arrangement." Laban is going to deal with his nephew.**

We learn that Laban had two daughters: the older sister was Leah and the younger was Rachel. **He knew Jacob was attracted to Rachel, for she was pretty and sweet. Leah, however, was not.** When Laban asked Jacob what his wages should be, **Jacob said he was willing to work for seven years for Rachel.** Laban accepted that bargain.

Jacob Experiences the Pain of Deception

And so Jacob served Laban for seven years for Rachel, and **"they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her"** (Genesis 29:20). In the early years of Jacob's life, the only hint of anything beautiful or honorable was his love for Rachel. Now that seven years of labor had passed, Jacob was eager to have Rachel's hand in marriage. So, Laban gathered all the men together and threw a party. **And in the evening, Laban took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob.** In those days, at the marriage ceremony, the bride was heavily veiled, so she couldn't be seen. Poor Jacob didn't see the girl he was marrying until the next morning. **And it wasn't Rachel - it was Leah! Jacob stormed over to Laban and demanded, "What have you done to me? I served you for Rachel. Why have you deceived me?"**

Laban dismisses his objection by saying, **"It's not our custom to give the younger before the firstborn."** This was a condition that he had forgotten to mention to Jacob.

When Jacob saw that he had been tricked, did he remember when he had pretended to be the older sibling? He had to leave home because he had deceived his father. Now Jacob thinks he's getting the younger sister, and he gets the older sister instead. The tables are turned, and it's a sad day for Jacob.

Making Decisions Against God's Will

But Laban was **willing to be "generous" in his dealings, so he made an offer:** Work another seven years, and you can have Rachel. That meant that Jacob would have two wives, something he shouldn't have done. He'll be in trouble before it is over. **So Jacob served another seven years and took Rachel to be his wife.**

Some have asked: **"Does God approve of polygamy?"** No, God doesn't approve of everything that is in the Bible. But it tells the truth about history. Jacob had two wives, and this is how it came about. **Jacob had plenty of trouble in his family from here on, and it all can be traced back to him, using his own methods to get what he wanted.**



Jacob had lived by his wits. He was cocky and clever and had perfected deceit. But now he will reap what he has sown.

God's Eternal Truths

Relevant to us from *Genesis 29*

The Principle of Sowing and Reaping:

- **The Truth:** The core truth in this story is that **"for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."** (*Galatians 6:7*). Jacob spent his early life relying on his deceptive and dishonest tactics to get his father's blessing and his brother's birthright. Because he sowed deception, he reaped deception: he was tricked by his uncle Laban into marrying the older sister, Leah, instead of Rachel. **God allowed Jacob to experience the pain of being deceived to discipline him, which made him reflect on his past sins. This is a fundamental, timeless truth that applies to all generations.**



- **New Testament Connection:** *Galatians 6:7* - "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."



Reflection Questions

Question 1

Reflecting on Sowing and Reaping: Are there areas in my life where I have justified using dishonest methods or "making up the rules as I go" to accomplish my goals, just as Jacob did? How might my current struggles be a harvest of things I have sown in the past?

Question 2

Changing Behavior: What is one "clever" or deceptive habit I need to confess and abandon today to avoid reaping a bitter harvest?

Question 3

Honest Self-Examination: Jacob's deception of his father was mirrored back to him by Laban. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area where you are currently deceiving others or yourself. What steps can you take this week to walk in honesty before God?



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