

Spitting in the Wind

Genesis Chapter 29

Jim Croche "You don't Mess around with Jim" lyric You Don't spit into the wind!!

Galatians 6:7-8 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."

Gen 29:1 1) Jacob Meets Rachel vs 1-2

Then Jacob went on his journey, and came to the land of the sons of the east.

- *Went on a journey (We are on a journey) Jacob thought he was going to get a wife. But Jacob's Shepherd God will teach him so much more.*
- *Rebekah's story was at sometime told Jacob. Eleazer coming to get her at the well.*

Gen 29:2 He looked, and saw a well in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep were lying there beside it, for from that well they watered the flocks. Now the stone on the mouth of the well was large.

Gen 29:3 When all the flocks were gathered there, they would then roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well.

Gen 29:4 Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran."

- *These are not the passive gentle shepherds in the Christmas story. These are the guys who are sitting with the flock in the heat of the day clubbing predators and carry knives to keep thieves away.*
- *Notice the lack of hospitality in the conversation. These shepherds are not offering much.*

Gen 29:5 He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "We know {him.}"

Gen 29:6 And he said to them, "Is it well with him?" And they said, "It is well, and here is Rachel his daughter coming with the sheep."

- *What a coincidence. (What did we learn from last week? "Coincidence is not a kosher word")*

Gen 29:7 He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered. Water the sheep, and go, pasture them."

- *Jacob is not familiar with the custom here in the east concerning watering sheep. They do it different where he is from.*

Gen 29:8 But they said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered, and they roll the stone from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

Gen 29:9 While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

- *HOW TO IMPRESS A GIRL*
- *Let her know you exist by doing something unexpected. BE SPONTANEOUS*
- *Let her know you have skills. BE STRONG*
- *Let her know you are helpful. BE A SERVANT*
- *Let her know you are attentive only to her. BE SINGLE MINDED*
- *Let her know you are passionate. BE AFFECTIONATE*
- *Let her know you are sensitive. BE A SISSY*

Gen 29:10 When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the mouth of the well and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

Gen 29:11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted his voice and wept.

Gen 29:12 Jacob told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father.

- *Finally, an explanation of who this guy was and why this was happening.*

- "she ran and told her father." - Surely Rachel had heard the account from her dad about an Aunt Rebekah. How a wealthy relative of his sent a servant with many camels and gold and visited and requested Rebekah to go with him to become a bride for his masters son, who was a Gift from God, born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age.
- And Now a man shows up in a similar fashion and he kissed her.

Gen 29:13 **2) Jacob Meets Laban** vs 13-30

So when Laban heard the news of Jacob his sister's son, he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him and brought him to his house. Then he related to Laban all these things.

Gen 29:14

Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him a month.

- Laban runs to meet him Why? Because this could mean more gold and camels.
- "My bone and My flesh" - A strong statement of welcome. In the correct persons mouth these are very nice words. In the mouth of Laban, these are tools for manipulation.
- Flattery
 - Prov 7:21-22 "With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;"
 - Psalm 12:2-3 "They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: [with] flattering lips [and] with a double heart do they speak. The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, [and] the tongue that speaketh proud things:"
 - Prov 28:23 "He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue."
 - Acts 12:21-23 Example of results of flattery in Herod's life
- Notice Laban Brings him in and listens to Jacob and then declares he is family
(Makes the target comfortable)

Gen 29:15 Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"

- Laban has hosted this guy for a month, and he hasn't seen a single golden bracelet or camel. It was time to get something out of this rich relative.
- Notice Laban He doesn't tell him out right to get a job but asks how much he needs to pay him.
(Makes the target oblicated)

Gen 29:16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

Gen 29:17 And Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful of form and face.

- KJV eyes were weak = tender 1) poor eyesight 2) a different color blue or green

Gen 29:18 Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

- Compare Jacob's visit with Eliezer's visit.
 - Servant sent Not the actual Son or Groom (safer perspective)
 - Jacob's motive love not prayerfully meeting predetermined goals
 - Jacob No Prayer -- Eliezer Prayed a number of times
 - Eliezer knew when to leave (and knew to leave if terms were not met)
 - Jacob stayed a long time
 - Eliezer controlled the negotiation Jacob looses control of the negotiation
- Jacob the trickster/deceiver meets someone that is better at it than himself.

- Gen 29:19
- Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than to give her to another man; stay with me."
 - *Notice Laban* He leaves out a little information concerning a custom but it was to his benefit
(Makes the target overconfident)
(Makes the target think he's in control)
- Gen 29:20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.
- Gen 29:21 Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give {me} my wife, for my time is completed, that I may go in to her."
- Gen 29:22 Laban gathered all the men of the place and made a feast.
- *Notice Laban* He distracts Jacob by throwing him a party - honoring Jacob and his bride
(Makes the target distracted)
- Gen 29:23 Now in the evening he (*Laban*) took his daughter Leah, and brought her to him; and {Jacob} went in to her.
- Gen 29:24 Laban also gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid.
- Gen 29:25 So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah! And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served with you? Why then have you deceived me?"
- *Jacob is surprised that this woman he had been intimate with was not Rachel*
 - *He runs to Laban complaining "How could you deceive me?!" "How could you take advantage of me when it was dark and I couldn't see?!" "What kind of person are you to do such a terrible thing?!" "How could you pull the wool over my eyes?!"*
- Gen 29:26 But Laban said, "It is not the practice in our place to marry off the younger before the firstborn.
- *Laban was telling Jacob that they in this country honor the firstborn*
 - *Here is where Jacob realizes he's been spitting in the wind*
 - *Notice Laban* He positions himself correct and positions Jacob as mistaken
(Makes the target sense he is in error)
- Gen 29:27 "Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also for the service which you shall serve with me for another seven years."
- *Notice Laban* He offers a solution that will achieve both goals yet he had gotten twice the benefit that was originally agreed
(Makes the target manipulated)
- Gen 29:28 Jacob did so and completed her week, and he gave him his daughter Rachel as his wife.
- Gen 29:29 Laban also gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maid.
- Gen 29:30 So {Jacob} went in to Rachel also, and indeed he loved Rachel more than Leah, and he served with Laban for another seven years.

- Gen 29:31 **3) Jacob Meets His Kids** vs 31-35 ("Kid Wars" if studied with Ch. 30:1-24)
 Now the LORD saw that Leah was unloved (*kjv HATED*), and He opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.
- *Leah is unloved (Hated in KJV) due to the deception of Laban*
 - *Leah is the innocent party here yet unattractive in comparison to Rachel and unloved by her husband.*
 - *Yet the Lord notices the oppressed and is there deliverer*
- Gen 29:32 Leah conceived and bore a son and named him Reuben, for she said, "Because the LORD has seen my affliction; surely now my husband will love me."
- *The first born is named Reuben means "Behold a son"*
 - *A statement to Jacob, Rachel and others that the Lord has bless her there for the result would be her husband's affection.*
 - *She will be mistaken*
- Gen 29:33 Then she conceived again and bore a son and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this {son} also." So she named him Simeon.
- *The second son is named Simeon meaning "Heard"*
 - *The firstborn didn't change the situation and this name declares to Jacob that the Lord has herd of his unloving attitude towards her.*
- Gen 29:34 She conceived again and bore a son and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore he was named Levi.
- *The third son is named Levi meaning "Attachment"*
 - *Leah is still striving to get Jacob's affection. Maybe the 3^d time is the charm. But no!*
- Gen 29:35 And she conceived again and bore a son and said, "This time I will praise the LORD." Therefore she named him Judah. Then she stopped bearing.
- *He fourth son is named Judah meaning "Praise"*
 - *It is interesting that Leah stopped naming her sons to reflect her pain but now named her 4th son to reflect God's care and blessing in her life.*
 - *It is also interesting that the uglier and unloved sister / wife was the one who brought forth two great tribes of Israel Levi (the priestly tribe) and Judah (the royal tribe)*
 - *From Judah will come the promised seed ...the Messiah.*

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