

Realizing Your Welcome is Worn

Genesis Chapter 31

Gen 31:1 **1) Jacob Sneaks Away** vs 1-21

Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what belonged to our father he has made all this wealth."

Gen 31:2 Jacob saw the attitude of Laban, and behold, it was not {friendly} toward him as formerly.

- *Jacob earlier wanted to leave. Laban increased his pay. After some time the sense of increased pay wares off and Jacob is ready to leave again.*
- *We run into the same thing. I've seen this as a manager. An employee has come to me and told me of them receiving an offer somewhere else for an increase of pay. I have in the past met the increase to keep an employee, only to have the employee leave in a couple of month anyway.*
- *We find that the pay isn't the only reason we work some place. If other elements don't change but pay only we will discover the real reason we want to leave. (respect, responsibility, growth in industry knowledge, environment, personalities of employer or peers, ...)*

Gen 31:3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you."

Gen 31:4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to his flock in the field,

- *Jacob counseled with his wives. Not the children, not the concubines. He didn't counsel with everybody just the two who were of authority.*
- *2 points 1) wives were in authority 2) children were not*

Gen 31:5 and said to them, "I see your father's attitude, that it is not {friendly} toward me as formerly, but the God of my father has been with me.

- *The reason there hasn't been any prayer or alters is that the Lord was still Isaac's God*
- *God is With Me*

Gen 31:6 "You know that I have served your father with all my strength.

Gen 31:7 "Yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times; however, God did not allow him to hurt me.

- *God Protects Me*

Gen 31:8 "If he spoke thus, 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flock brought forth speckled; and if he spoke thus, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock brought forth striped.

Gen 31:9 "Thus God has taken away your father's livestock and given {them} to me.

- *God Judged Me (judged in that He judged between Jacob and Laban corrected the wrong)*

Gen 31:10 "And it came about at the time when the flock were mating that I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the male goats which were mating {were} striped, speckled, and mottled.

Gen 31:11 "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.'

Gen 31:12 "He said, 'Lift up now your eyes and see {that} all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.

Gen 31:13 'I am the God {of} Bethel, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.' "

- *God Guides Me*
- *20 years after Bethel God will accomplish His will. In His time He is patient.*

Gen 31:14 Rachel and Leah said to him, "Do we still have any portion or inheritance in our father's house?"

- *No*

Gen 31:15 "Are we not reckoned by him as foreigners?"

- *Yes*

For he has sold us, and has also entirely consumed our purchase price.

Gen 31:16 "Surely all the wealth which God has taken away from our father belongs to us and our children; now then, do whatever God has said to you."

- *It is wonderful when you have your wives confirmation.*

Gen 31:17 Then Jacob arose and put his children and his wives upon camels;

Gen 31:18 and he drove away all his livestock and all his property which he had gathered, his acquired livestock which he had gathered in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac.

Gen 31:19 When Laban had gone to shear his flock, then Rachel stole the household idols that were her father's.

- *We are not sure why Rachel stole the idols. Perhaps:*
 - *She bowed down before these as well and didn't want to leave without them.*
 - *She didn't want Laban to use them as divination to find them as they fled*
 - *She stole them to have something of her own from her father*
 - *She was getting back at her father*

Gen 31:20 And Jacob deceived Laban the Aramean by not telling him that he was fleeing.

- *This is interesting that Jacob did not have the confidence to simply tell Laban what God wants Him to do.*
- *Jacob might be afraid of being manipulated again which shows he isn't set/firm in his resolve to follow God's leading.*
- *Jacob might not be all that confident that this leading is correct thing to do, which shows he doesn't trust God fully.*
- *Jacob might not be practiced in hearing God's leading and following it so to get in a discussion with someone who will be antagonistic is not desirable. It is easier to just leave.*

Gen 31:21 So he fled with all that he had; and he arose and crossed the {Euphrates} River, and set his face toward the hill country of Gilead.

Gen 31:22 **2) Laban Pursues Jacob** vs 22-42

When it was told Laban on the third day that Jacob had fled,

Gen 31:23 then he took his kinsmen with him and pursued him {a distance of} seven days' journey, and he overtook him in the hill country of Gilead.

Gen 31:24 God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream of the night and said to him, "Be careful that you do not speak to Jacob either good or bad."

- *God will speak to our adversaries. Even unbeknownst to us.*

Gen 31:25 Laban caught up with Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsmen camped in the hill country of Gilead.

Gen 31:26 Then Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done by deceiving me and carrying away my daughters like captives of the sword?"

Gen 31:27 "Why did you flee secretly and deceive me, and did not tell me so that I might have sent you away with joy and with songs, with timbrel and with lyre;

Gen 31:28 and did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters? Now you have done foolishly.

Gen 31:29 "It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful not to speak either good or bad to Jacob.'

- Gen 31:30 "Now you have indeed gone away because you longed greatly for your father's house; {but} why did you steal my gods?"
- *Laban really twists the truth here.*
 - *Jacob didn't carry away Laban's daughters like captives. They wanted to leave.*
 - *Laban didn't want to send them away with a party. He wanted them to stay.*
 - *Laban didn't want to kiss them. He wanted them to be a slave to him, but now he wants to kill them.*
 - *After all this, and after The one true God speaks to him, Laban wants his little gods. (This is always a mystery to me, yet people do this everyday. They encounter the Lord, He blesses them, delivers them and then they desire some little god again. They come in their deep need and find relief and then when better they run back to the thing that created the deep need.)*
- Gen 31:31 Then Jacob replied to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I thought that you would take your daughters from me by force.
- Gen 31:32 "The one with whom you find your gods shall not live; in the presence of our kinsmen point out what is yours among my belongings and take {it} for yourself." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.
- Gen 31:33 So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two maids, but he did not find {them.} Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's tent.
- *Searched Tents COULD NOT FIND HIS GOD'S.*
- Gen 31:34 Now Rachel had taken the household idols and put them in the camel's saddle, and she sat on them. And Laban felt through all the tent but did not find {them.}
- *Searched Camels (except Rache'Is) COULD NOT FIND HIS GOD'S*
- Gen 31:35 She said to her father, "Let not my lord be angry that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is upon me." So he searched but did not find the household idols.
- *Searched the whole camp but COULD NOT FIND HIS GOD'S*
 - *Jacob is going to loose it here.*
- Gen 31:36 Then Jacob became angry and contended with Laban; and Jacob said to Laban, "What is my transgression? What is my sin that you have hotly pursued me?"
- Gen 31:37 "Though you have felt through all my goods, what have you found of all your household goods? Set {it} here before my kinsmen and your kinsmen, that they may decide between us two.
- Gen 31:38 "These twenty years I {have been} with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried, nor have I eaten the rams of your flocks.
- Gen 31:39 "That which was torn {of beasts} I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it myself. You required it of my hand {whether} stolen by day or stolen by night.
- Gen 31:40 "{Thus} I was: by day the heat consumed me and the frost by night, and my sleep fled from my eyes.
- Gen 31:41 "These twenty years I have been in your house; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters and six years for your flock, and you changed my wages ten times.
- Gen 31:42 "If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had not been for me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the toil of my hands, so He rendered judgment last night."

Gen 31:43 **3) Treaty Between Jacob and Laban** vs 43-55

Then Laban replied to Jacob, "The daughters are my daughters, and the children are my children, and the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne?"

Gen 31:44 "So now come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me."

Gen 31:45 Then Jacob took a stone and set it up {as} a pillar.

Gen 31:46 Jacob said to his kinsmen, "Gather stones." So they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap.

Gen 31:47 Now Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

Gen 31:48 Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me this day." Therefore it was named Galeed,

Gen 31:49 and Mizpah, for he said, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from the other.

Gen 31:50 "If you mistreat my daughters, or if you take wives besides my daughters, {although} no man is with us, see, God is witness between you and me."

Gen 31:51 Laban said to Jacob, "Behold this heap and behold the pillar which I have set between you and me.

Gen 31:52 "This heap is a witness, and the pillar is a witness, that I will not pass by this heap to you for harm, and you will not pass by this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.

- *Not that they would never visit but that they would not cross this marker to harm*
- *Speaking to mistrust. That was the relationship that was developed when it is nurtured by manipulation and deceit*

Gen 31:53 "The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us." So Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac.

Gen 31:54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his kinsmen to the meal; and they ate the meal and spent the night on the mountain.

Gen 31:55 Early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and his daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place.

- *Thus laban is no longer in the story of the chosen people*

36

Lessons of Learned from Laban

- 1) Laban Taught Jacob that People Have Agendas
- 2) Laban Taught Jacob that Snakes Have Family Too
- 3) Laban Taught Jacob to Work
- 4) Laban Taught Jacob to Negotiate Clearly vs 30:28-32
- 5) Laban Taught Jacob to be Faithful Even when Those Around Him are Not vs 41
- 6) Laban Taught Jacob Diligence Even when It's Uncomfortable and Unpleasant vs 40
- 7) Laban Taught Jacob the Cost of Doing Business (Jacob Covered Losses) vs 39
- 8) Laban Taught Jacob That Without God He would Have Nothing vs 42
- 9) Laban Taught Jacob To Stand Up

** You have or will have a Laban come into your life. God will use a Laban to work a deep work in your life. You can fight it or you can watch what the Lord will change in your heart. Our first response will be to grumble against he who is rubbing us the wrong way. If you keep your eyes on the Lord and seek the Lord concerning this rubbing, Jesus will show you the treasure being developed in your life. James 1:2-4

What We Learn About Our God

1) God Is With us Even When We Are Not With Him vs 5, 11

Heb 13: 5-6 “[Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord [is] my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

2) God Protects Us From Schemes of our Adversary vs 7

Book of Esther

Ps 18:3 “I will call upon the LORD, [who is worthy] to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.”

Ps 25:2 “O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.”

3) God Judges Between Me and One Who Treats Unjustly vs 9

Mal 3:5 “And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in [his] wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger [from his right], and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Rom 12:19 “Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath {of God,} for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.”

4) God Guides Us vs 13

John 16:13 “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

5) God will Talk to our Enemies for Us vs 24

Rev 12:10 “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”

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